

Benn still defiant on Foot ultimatum but wins reprieve

By Julian Hayland and Philip Webster

Mr Michael Foot astonished Labour MPs last night by giving Mr Wedgwood Benn yet more time to declare his support for the doctrine of Shadow Cabinet responsibility.

In front of a packed meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party Mr Benn made a statement which Mr Foot considered to be conciliatory, although it conspicuously did not contain the assurance that the party leader had demanded at a meeting of the Shadow Cabinet on Wednesday night.

Mr Benn would abide by the normal rules of collective responsibility.

Most Labour MPs left the meeting under the clear impression that in the absence of that undertaking, which Mr Foot had demanded be delivered by the time of the meeting, Mr Benn would not vote for Mr Benn in the Shadow Cabinet elections, for which nominations closed yesterday.

There was disbelief among Labour MPs when it emerged later that that was not Mr Foot's position, and that he was content to wait a little longer for the vote he hoped to hear from Mr Benn.

Mr Foot appeared to put the most generous interpretation on Mr Benn's carefully chosen words, which he had written in advance after consulting his closest supporters.

Mr Benn told the meeting that he had spoken in good faith in the Commons on Tuesday night when he said that a future Labour Government would renationalise North Sea oil and gas assets without compensation, and denied that he had repudiated an agreed Shadow Cabinet statement.

Mr Benn had breached an agreement made with his colleagues about what should or should not be said in the Commons, as the rest of the Shadow Cabinet maintain.

But the passage which led Mr Foot to give Mr Benn the benefit of the doubt was as follows: "Those of us who have put ourselves forward for election must all want to accept the responsibility that goes with membership of the party, and the responsibility that we share collectively as Members of Parliament and members of the party to support the policies of the party, now and in the future."

Most of his audience were unimpressed by that. Mr Benn said Mr Foot repeated to the meeting what he had said to the Shadow Cabinet the night before. He held he still required an assurance from Mr Benn that he would observe the rules of collective responsibility inside the Shadow Cabinet, as he had set them out

on Tuesday night and as all the other members understood them.

That obliged Mr Benn to speak again, and he did so reluctantly. He told the meeting that he had not expected to have to reply verbally, direct and then to Mr Foot's direct question: "Although there were some at that point of 'Yes or no?' Mr Benn had nothing more to say, except that the issue of collective responsibility should be discussed further."

When it became known later that Mr Benn was to be allowed more time, Mr Benn said: "This is an appeasement on an unheated scale. Tony Benn failed to meet the deadline. All of us understand that that would mean Mr Benn would oppose him."

Later, on BBC Television, Mr Benn asked: "Is it to be the case that once you join the Shadow Cabinet, you cannot ever refer to Labour conference decisions any more? If you accept that, then frankly every Shadow Cabinet member is a member of a different party."

"I will not allow the Shadow Cabinet to silence me or anyone else. I ask for no favours from the party, but I have agreed on to get Britain out of the slump."

"I have made it clear that I would work with the party as a team to get our policies across. What I will not accept is that the Shadow Cabinet has the right of its own and on its own to change party policy."

Mr Benn's Shadow Cabinet colleagues maintain that the "no compensation" policy, passed at a special conference at Wembley on May 31 last year, was reversed at Brighton on September 28.

The opening section of Mr Benn's statement said: "I would like to make a brief personal statement to the party, which I have shown to Michael Foot, about the events of the last few days, and about the future."

First, with regard to the debate on the sale of North Sea Oil and Gas. When the Tory Government first decided on a policy of privatisation both the TUC and the Labour Party agreed to it. The Labour Party agreed to it as a necessary condition for a future Labour Government would require these assets without compensation.

This decision was reaffirmed last year in the following terms: "We will take North Sea Oil into public ownership, and we will restore to public ownership, without compensation, the assets of our public sector industries sold off by the Tories."

These words appeared in Peace, Jobs and Freedom, accepted by the Wembley Conference on May 31 last year by over 5 million votes to 6,000.

This Conference policy has

never been amended or rescinded and it remains the latest statement of Conference policy.

When the Government announced the sale of North Sea assets, the Shadow Cabinet, on October 20th and later, the NEC on October 28th issued a statement which I supported and still support, because it reiterated our basic position. That statement was not presented to us, at either meeting, as constituting an amendment to Conference decisions or as being incompatible with them. Nor could it have changed Party policy.

I quoted that Conference decision in my speech in the House of Commons in good faith, and in no way repudiated the Shadow Cabinet statement issued three weeks earlier. Nor did I breach any agreement in the Shadow Cabinet about what should or should not be said in the debate.

Broadly similar warnings have been given from the Front Bench on other legislation to give off public assets.

The TUC Labour Party Liaison Committee has already agreed that we must discuss together how our commitments on renationalisation are to be expressed in detail. Until that is done, and agreed by Conference, there is bound to be uncertainty and we must now work very quickly to reach such an agreement.

The same need to reach an agreement as to how we can best implement Party policies applies across the whole field. On most of these policies there is already a broad measure of agreement, but the details need to be worked out so that we can put them to the next conference and campaign for them vigorously in the country.

All of us share the responsibility for trying to carry forward the aspirations of our Movement as expressed in Conference decisions. This collective responsibility applies whether we are on the Front Bench or the Back Benches, or are on the National Executive or indeed are members of the Party. We know that if there is to be any chance of winning broad public support, and making a success of the next Labour Government, we must work together as a team within a broad framework.

The problems that now face us are not the responsibility of individuals, and no individual can solve them. All of us who are trying to work for unity around our policies both in the House of Commons and in our task much easier. We can reach an early agreement about the main provisions of

Continued on back page, col 4



Back into space: The shuttle Columbia lifts off from the Kennedy Space Centre on its historic second mission, as a symbolic American flag flutters in the foreground.

Fault forces Nasa to shorten space shuttle

From Nicholas Hirst, Cape Canaveral, Nov 12

The historic second mission of the delayed space shuttle Columbia was cut by more than half today only hours after blast-off when it developed a fuel cell problem.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) officials said that instead of flying for five days, Columbia would stay in space for only 54 hours and would land at Santa

Canada-designed robot arm, was set to circle the earth 33 times. Seven months to the day from its maiden flight, the shuttle's first mission was shortened by more than half.

Up in orbit, Captain Truly reported: "This is fun. Colonel Eagle's heartbeat at launch was 110 per minute and rose to 120. Captain Truly's was 86 and rose to 94. A rate of 73 is regarded as normal."

In the grandstand three and a half miles from the launch pad, observers' heartbeats stopped as the countdown failed to come off its planned ten minutes hold before the last nine minutes. It was at this point that the shuttle's first mission was shortened by more than half.

Mr George Page, the launch director, had required a final check of problems that had occurred during the countdown. "Take your time," he told the astronauts. "We are going to give you a good one."

Ten minutes later the countdown was picked up again. At 31 seconds the clock stuck last time was passed. Ignition was announced.

A cloud of white steam and smoke billowed from the launch vehicle. It was up and away, clearing the launch tower, enveloped the launch complex and Columbia was diminishing to a bright speck.

She angled upwards, rotating so that Columbia was upside down. Shuttle programme, page 6

US budget head offers resignation

Mr David Stockman, President Reagan's budget director, offered his resignation yesterday over his misgivings, published in an American magazine, about the President's economic policies. The President gave him a 45-minute dressing-down in the Oval Office and turned down his resignation, but the incident has shaken in Administration whose credibility is already riven by personal feuds.

Back page

Bomb attack on RUC man

A part-time member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary lost both his legs when a bomb exploded under his car. The attack is seen as part of a new IRA bomb campaign as the Maze Prison protests the dawn.

Report, page 3

Photograph, back page

Toxteth streets still simmer

Street robberies in Toxteth, Liverpool, although still rare, are declining from the peak they reached in the summer. But gang attacks on policemen are putting strains on attempts to set up a community policing system to prevent more riots.

Page 2



Shots fired at US envoy

Mr Christian Chapman, the United States Charge d'Affaires in Paris, escaped unharmed when a min of Middle-Eastern appearance fired six shots at him when he was leaving home. The assailant escaped. Mr Hag, the American Secretary of State, suggested that Libya might be behind the assassination attempt.

Page 7

Venezuela's title

Miss Venezuela, Pili León, aged 18, was chosen in London last night as Miss World 1981. Second was Miss Colombia and Miss Jamaica was third. Miss Trinidad and Tobago, Donnelly from Cardiff, was in the final seven.

Page 1

Preview today

Today's 16-page Preview contains an interview with the controversial film maker Ken Loach, news of John Schlesinger's latest production for the National Theatre and a guide to the Lord Mayor's Procession, in addition to a comprehensive guide to the week's films, theatre, concerts, dance, opera, exhibitions, sport and broadcasting.

Leader page, 11

Letters: On London Transport from Professor A. W. Evans, and others: "One Nation", from Lord Alport.

Leading articles: Civil Service, P.O. South Africa. Features, pages 9, 10. A cry for help from a Soviet labour camp: The Militants hit Bradford: The Mental Health Bill—arguments for and against.

Obituary, page 12. Sir Gilbert Rennie, Professor R. M. Ogilvie.

Home News 2-4. Motoring 21. Overseas 5-7. Parliament 13. Arts 14-16. Sale Room 12. Business 14-16. Science 2. Chess 12. Sport 19, 20. Court 12. TV & Radio 12. Crossword 10. Theatre 12. Features 9, 10. 25 Years Ago 12. Law Report 21. Weather 22. Lurid cartoon 6. Wills 12.

University results, page 12

Gardeners clipped Islington

An investigation into council contracts by the London Borough of Islington has shown that a firm was paid £730 to weed two square metres of grass. Another firm received £63 for five minutes grass cutting.

The payments are part of a £25,000 overcharge discovered by the finance department during an investigation into grass cutting and weeding contracts on housing estates in the last financial year.

The inquiry was ordered after allegations that some contractors were operating a price-rise.

A police investigation resulted in bribery and corruption charges being brought against a council employee and a director and employee of the firm paid £730 for weeding the shrubbery.

The council's site inspections revealed a "poor standard of workmanship" on grass cutting and an "exceptionally poor standard of weeding."

At Manchester Mansions in Sunnyside Road, Islington, a grass-cutting job that took five minutes cost the council £63. The previous year a contractor was paid £3.55 for the same job.

At Fynder Court in Camden Road, Holloway, the council paid £71 for the grass to be cut. A reasonable charge would have been £10, said investigators.

It was at Medina Court, Medina Road, Holloway, that contractors were paid £730 for weeding the shrubbery. It cost £103 the previous year. The investigators' report said: "The weeding charge was very high for both years."

At the Westbourne Estate the bill for weeding was £180 for the previous year. It was £180 for weeding and grass-cutting. At the New Orleans estate the council paid £250 for weeding which the investigators estimated would have taken one man eight hours.

This report was discussed at a meeting of the council's Finance sub-committee from which both press and public were excluded. Changes in tendering procedures have now been recommended.

Production rises, sterling gains Economy looks up as US interest rates fall

By John Whitmore and David Blake

A rather more encouraging economic picture emerged yesterday with figures showing that industrial production had risen for the eighth month in a row.

Several leading United States banks announced further reductions in their prime lending rates yesterday. Chase Manhattan led off with a cut from 17 to 16 1/2 per cent, while other banks are expected to follow.

As American interest rates fall, the need to hold United Kingdom interest rates quite so high in order to underpin the pound also lessens.

As a result, the high street banks have been able to reduce their base lending rates to 15 per cent from their recent peak of 16. The City is speculatively talking in terms of further small cuts that could bring base rates down to 14 per cent by the end of the year.

News of the cut in United States prime rates gave a fillip to stock markets in late trading yesterday. Government stocks closed with gains of up to £1, while the FT share index ended a day of falls with a movement 10 points higher at 518.2.

There were, however, further signs yesterday that international interest rates are moving lower as the United States economy moves deeper into recession.

In the United States, leading banks, with Chase Manhattan in the lead, are set to cut their prime lending rates.

Total manufacturing output in the three months to the end of September was 11 per cent higher than in the previous three months, according to figures released by the Department of Industry.

Although total industrial output grew rather more slowly, by 0.7 per cent, there was a rise of almost 0.5 per cent in September.

While this sharp improvement in September should hearten the Government, it is clear that the recovery remains patchy. Many economists, moreover, still expect the recovery to be slow and uncertain, particularly against the background of high real interest rates.

The National Union of Mineworkers' executive sent a shock wave through the coal industry yesterday when it was seized by internal election fever and rejected a final offer valued at 9.13 per cent.

NUM rejects 9.13pc offer amid election fever

Is inflation really 15pc?

The miners' claim is based on the tax and price index (TPI) introduced in May 1979 by Mr Nigel Lawson, then Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Melvyn Westlake writes).

The index shows the combined effect of changes in prices and changes in personal taxes. Only indirect taxes such as VAT and excise duties are

included in the traditional retail price index (RPI).

The TPI was intended to show that although Government policies were pushing up prices, most people were better off because of cuts in income tax. Since then most have found that the TPI has been better than the RPI by 14.9 per cent in the 12 months to September.

Yesterday's decision ensures that the issue of this year's wage deal will become fully embroiled with the presidential election campaign in the coalfield, writes Westlake.

A terse two-paragraph statement said there could be no compromise. The TPI was added: "This is the maximum that can be found without jeopardizing markets and investments and causing irreparable damage in the industry."

Improvement in the £100m total cash offered at Wednesday's talks.

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Heseltine survives rates Bill revolt

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, won some considerable support in the Commons yesterday to appease the growing revolt among Conservative MPs over the methods he is proposing in the Bill soon to come before the House for restricting the expenditure of local authorities.

In spite of about 13 Conservative abstentions, Mr Heseltine's assurances appeared to have satisfied many of his backbenchers, at least for the moment. The Labour motion calling for the autonomy of local government to be upheld, and opposing any attempts to impair or undermine it, was defeated by 299 votes to 249.

The Conservative amendment calling on the Government to continue its efforts to restrain the activities of over-spending local authorities and to provide further protection for domestic commercial and industrial ratepayers, was then carried by 312 votes to 247.

Mr Heseltine was not already fully aware of the unrest, he was not many minutes into his speech before repeated interventions from his own backbenches left him in no doubt of the strong feelings.

First he made clear that he and the Government are not committed to local referendums on rate increases and that the Government had an open mind on the best solution for restraining local authorities in a determined effort to limit the Dory rebels, the Secretary of State repeatedly referred to what he was proposing as local polls or elections.

Next he emphasized the temporary nature of his proposals, saying that all the innovations being introduced under the Bill were interim measures designed to fill the gap until legislation to reform the rating system could become effective.

Mr Douglas Hogg, Tory MP for Grantham, intervened to suggest that if these proposals were essentially interim measures, the Secretary of State providing in the Bill that these powers should expire in, say, three years, to loud applause.

As the debate moved to the Conservative benches, Mr Heseltine replied that if that would be seen as a way of reinforcing what he had said, then it would be a very sensible amendment.

Earlier, Mr Gerald Kaufman, Opposition spokesman on the Environment, opening the debate, pledged that a future Labour Government would not want these powers. They were odious and undemocratic and if they reached the statute book, Labour would repeal them.

As the debate moved to the backbenches, it soon became clear that Mr Heseltine's promises and assurances were some thing less than a complete success in quelling the Tory revolt.

Mr Patrick Cormack, Staffordshire, South West, told him that the measures now being discussed were a monstrous contradiction of a long and honourable Tory tradition in local government.

Parliamentary report, page 8 Rates Bill opposition, page 2

Thatcher denies Whitehall U-turn

By George Clark

Meeting a barrage of hostile questions from Mr Foot and Labour MPs yesterday about the dismantling of the Civil Service Department, Mrs Thatcher denied that she had committed a volte face or U-turn as they suggested.

She based their attack on a statement made in January, where Mrs Thatcher said: "I have decided to strengthen and improve the existing organisation of the CSD rather than merge the two departments—the CSD and the Treasury."

Mr Foot, who complained that there had been no prior consultation with the Civil Service unions, thought the chance of an attack might have been brought about by the civil servants' industrial action this year.

Mrs Thatcher pointed out that she was not proposing a merger, but a two-way split. The principal disadvantage of setting up the CSD 13 years ago had been that "it divorced central responsibility for the control of manpower from responsibility for the control of Government expenditure."

She explained: "I judge that the balance of advantage now lies in favour of consolidating the CSD's manpower control responsibilities with the central control of resources."

That meant making the Treasury responsible for the control of Civil Service manpower, pay, superannuation, allowances and for the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency.

Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister of State, CSD, would be appointed, with the same rank, to the Treasury to help in the discharge of these responsibilities.

A roar of laughter from the Opposition greeted Mrs Thatcher's announcement that Mr John Bruce-Gardyne, MP for Knutsford, was being promoted from Minister of State to be Economic Secretary of the Treasury. He was brought into the Government at the last reshuffle and Labour members recalled that he was the right-wing who had pressed Mrs Thatcher for her statement in January.

Yesterday Mrs Thatcher modified her stance: "It remains my view that there should not be a total merger of the Treasury and CSD. The efficiency of the Civil Service in carrying out its functions and the selection and development of civil servants are as important to the Government as the control of public expenditure."

She would continue to be Minister for the Civil Service, responsible for the organisation, management and overall efficiency of the Home Civil Service and for policy on recruitment, training and other personnel management matters.

The staff involved in these functions would work alongside the Civil Service Office, in a new Management and Personnel Office. Sir Robert Armstrong would be the Permanent Secretary and would also continue as secretary of the Cabinet Office.

CS shake-up, page 10 Leading article, page 11

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RUNCORN NEW TOWN

BL £15m down as tea-break strike continues

From a Staff Reporter, Birmingham

The 2,200 tea-break strikers at BL's Longbridge car plant, Birmingham, decided yesterday to continue the dispute. They will not meet again until next Thursday.

A further 3,200 workers have been sent home because of the dispute. More layoffs will be reviewed by the company today. It is estimated that BL has lost vehicles worth £15m, mainly Merros, since the dispute began on Monday.

The company said: "There is no intention as such from us and there are no further meetings planned at this stage. We can only say it is a very unnecessary dispute, with these people in dispute, over something that has not happened."

No vote was taken at yesterday's "reporting back" meeting held inside the plant but it was obvious that the management plan of appealing directly to the strikers by letter had failed.

The letter from Mr Brian Fox, BL's Birmingham Operations Director, had given a warning that "continued disruption can only lose money for those on strike and harm the interests of all who work at Longbridge."

Yesterday's decision was not unexpected as the deadline in Wednesday's talks. Union officials and shop stewards told the management that the present 52-minute day allowance (55 minutes on the night shift) for tea and other breaks was sacrosanct. They rejected any move to reduce it to 40 minutes.

Mr Fox's letter also advised the strikers that BL did not have the money to absorb a 2.5 per cent pay increase and output. He said that a week ago all 11 manual unions had signed the company's wage deal for 1981-82 which committed them to financing the one-hour cut by more efficient use of working time.

BL has also drawn the union's attention to the commitment in the agreement between the Engineering Employers' Federation and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions for cooperation to find ways of introducing the shorter working week without increasing manufacturing costs.

Mr Brian Marblers, Midlands regional secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said later: "I am not surprised that the dispute is continuing. The whole issue has generated a great deal of concern among the membership."

The latest position on talks is that there is nothing immediate on the air but that the dispute people are prepared to meet the company anywhere at any time with the object of trying to resolve the issue if that is possible.

Ford action call

Ford management yesterday made clear that there will be no improvement on their 4.5 per cent pay offer, which the unions have rejected. (Our Labour Staff writes). The union side, representing 54,000 manual workers, meets today and is set to recommend an all-out strike at the company from November 24.

Pay talks broke down on Monday with the union saying that unless there was a better offer from the company by today the strike call would be made. The unions are unhappy at Ford's attempt to link the offer to wide-ranging efficiency proposals.

Ford said last night: "There is really nothing we have to say to the unions at the moment. They are always talking about

bringing home the bacon tomorrow and we believe the time has passed for that kind of thing. We need improvements now if we are going to survive."

Farmworkers' 10%

A 10 per cent increase in the basic wage for farm workers from £64 to £70.40 was announced last night by the Agricultural Wages Board (John Young writes).

The settlement will take effect from January 21. Both sides declared themselves dissatisfied with the deal. Mr Simon Gourlay, the National Farmers' Union negotiator, said it was an imposed settlement. "We feel that this settlement goes far further than is justified in the light of the economic state of the agricultural industry and its prospects in the coming year," he said.

Mr Jack Boddy, general secretary of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers, pointed out that a 10 per cent increase was below the rate of inflation.

Esso offer rejected

Transport union officials said last night that Esso tankers drivers and terminal workers had voted by a 2 to 1 majority to reject the company's 8 per cent pay offer. But their shop stewards decided to postpone the vote until next Monday.

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They also called on the management to reopen negotiations possibly calling in the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

The stewards' meeting called for a 10 per cent pay increase for blue-collar workers. Union officials said that the votes differed from the BP terminal votes, which were declared invalid on Monday, because the Esso men were clear on what they were voting for.

Stewards from Texaco and BP, the two remaining big oil companies, are due to meet today to decide what action they will take but they are also likely to hold back from striking on Monday.

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bringing home the bacon tomorrow and we believe the time has passed for that kind of thing. We need improvements now if we are going to survive."

Seamen's deal

Britain's 26,000 merchant seamen were recommended by their union leaders last night to accept an 8 per cent pay offer.

The deal will increase a foreign-going qualified seaman's average weekly earnings, while at sea, from £156.47 to £166.96 and from £91 to £96.50 while on leave.

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Four months on, Toxteth still simmers

From John Witherow, Liverpool

There is a map on the wall of the office of the chief superintendent of the Liverpool police headquarters in Division which is punctured with red, pink, blue and green markers. They show the "robberies" or "assaults" or "thefts" in Toxteth since the summer riots four months ago.

The way colours jostle on some street corners, pedestrians about at night would be well advised to cross the road.

According to Chief Superintendent David Wilmore, who is in charge of policing Toxteth, the pink markers are there only because they ran out of red ones to show the muggings, which are mainly of elderly women.

Despite the rise in street crime immediately after the riots, there has been a steady decline over the summer to the average level of about 20 robberies or attempted thefts a week.

A more disturbing development, however, are vicious gang attacks launched recently on policemen on the beat. In the past seven weeks four policemen have been injured after being stoned and then kicked and beaten as they lay semi-conscious on the pavement.

Even the police have to pass some parts of Toxteth after 6 pm because stones have been hurled at them. The sound of police sirens is common and one community worker spoke of low-level warfare against the police.

Mr Wilmore is confident that the 40 or 50 youths responsible for such attacks are not representative of the community, which wants the police to control the area and reduce crime. He admits the riots were a

shock which led to a "re-evaluation of policing methods." The riots have strengthened his belief that British police can only work with the consent of the population. Mistakes were made and police now want to strengthen their links with the community, improve their training and step up the number of foot patrols who can get to know the locals.

Mr Wilmore said there were already more men on the beat, although during a three-hour period in Upper Parliament Street and Lodge Lane yesterday there were few signs of policemen on foot or in vehicles.

The Toxteth Defence Committee, which was set up to defend arrested rioters, says that because the police are afraid of sparking off another riot.

Members also claim, although not unanimously, that the police are still racially abusive and aggressive. Only when that stops will there be an end to assaults on the police's committee spokesman said. Unemployment, poor housing and lack of recreational facilities were secondary factors.

"Everyone on the streets had a personal grudge against the police," a youth said as he sat in the committee's stuffy basement office on Upper Parliament Street.

"When policemen from outside came in, the community gave them tea and biscuits," he said. "The only thing the Merseyside police would get is a load of bricks."

Until those attitudes change, the police have an uphill task. The suspicion and hatred, built up over years of what they say



Chief Supt Wilmore: Policing was heavy-handed, is deeply entrenched.

All that has damaged commerce in the area. Some shopkeepers complain that business has declined by half and accuse the county council of being slow and miserly in paying compensation.

The county council, for its part, maintains it has acted quickly after being faced with 700 claims and a bill of nearly £1m.

A furious three-way dispute blew up last night between Merseyside's police force and its police authority (the Press Association reports).

First, Mr James Jardine, the chairman of the Police Federation, criticised the authority for a sustained campaign of denigration "after the summer riots in Toxteth."

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Rates Bill opposition upset by mavericks

Science report New brain scan can pinpoint sclerosis

By David Walker

The precarious unity of local councils in England and Wales opposed to the Government's Rates Bill is being threatened by freelance action by a new group of Labour councillors.

The group, led by Mr David Bookbinder, Labour leader of Derbyshire County Council, met yesterday in London. In a statement afterwards, Mr Bookbinder promised a mass lobby of MPs next week for the second reading of the Bill.

He said the 17 authorities would work to rule by refusing to undertake administration on behalf of central government, but they would act within the law.

Mr Bookbinder regarded as a maverick by fellow members of the Association of County Councils, said legal action was being planned against Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment. His group, said to be an alliance of "like-minded authorities", includes representatives of the Greater London Council, the London boroughs of Lewisham, Lambeth and Islington, the Bedfordshire, South Yorkshire and West Midlands county councils. Representatives of the Scottish councils of Dundee and Lothian also attended.

Any action by Mr Bookbinder's allies would cut across the strategy planned overtly by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, representing city councils, and covertly by the Association of County Councils, representing the shires.

The Greater London Council yesterday lodged its appeal to the House of Lords against the ruling of the Court of Appeal on Tuesday that its Rates Fair scheme was illegal (the Press Association reports).

The Labour-controlled Wrekin district council in Shropshire, has decided to subsidise its fares out of the rates, although it has no responsibility for public transport (Our Ludlow Correspondent writes).

The council is to spend £60,000 in a three-month experiment designed to bring back passengers.

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IN BRIEF

School strike talks fail

Talks aimed at resolving a strike by caretakers, cleaners and canteen staff over proposed spending cuts which has shut Coventry's 150 schools broke down yesterday.

Four thousand members of public employees' union went on strike last Friday and 60,000 pupils have had to stay at home. Arbitrators met councillors and union officers, but could find no way to get the parties together.

Suicide verdict

San Stuart Roudledge, a former cavalry major, of Harrow Hall near Grantham, whose wife offered royal wedding trips to Americans, hanged himself after a quarrel with her about their son's future, it was said at an inquest in Melton Mowbray yesterday. A verdict of suicide was recorded.

Oxfam buys TV time

Oxfam is to spend £30,000 on advertising on television in an attempt to draw customers into its 600 shops. A 20-second film will be screened on Southern Television for a fortnight from Wednesday.

'Observer' cash raid

Two men, one armed with a shotgun, snatched £50,000 in cash after a raid at The Observer newspaper office in St Andrew's Hill, Blackfriars, London, yesterday.

Herd slaughtered

420 pedigree Friesians from a prize-winning herd belonging to a farmer of Iseldam, Co. Antrim, are being slaughtered because of a brucellosis outbreak.

TV pub may open

Work started yesterday on rebuilding the outdoor set of Coronation Street in Manchester. The site may be opened to the public with refreshments in the street. Return, when not in use for filming.

Ex-footballer's appeal

Peter Storey, aged 35, a former England and Arsenal footballer, of Chigwell, Essex, was yesterday given leave to appeal to the Lords against his conviction of conspiring to counterfeit gold half-sovereigns.

Oriana farewell

The 21-year-old P & O liner Oriana sailed out of Southampton for the last time yesterday after a rousing send-off. She is to be based in Australia.

Man burns to death

A man burnt to death on Harrow school playing fields yesterday. Firemen found a canister at his side.

First step to women as deacons

By Clifford Longley

Religious Affairs Correspondent

The first step towards the ordination of women as deacons was taken by the General Synod of the Church of England yesterday, but not without a question mark as to whether the measure will eventually be implemented.

One of a series of amendments became a rallying point for opponents, and was defeated by less than a two-thirds majority.

At a later stage a two-thirds majority will be required to approve the necessary change in church legislation, and on yesterday's showing it would not have been passed.

Nevertheless even this amendment declared that there was no fundamental objection to the ordination of women as deacons, while calling for further study of the issue before proceeding with legislation.

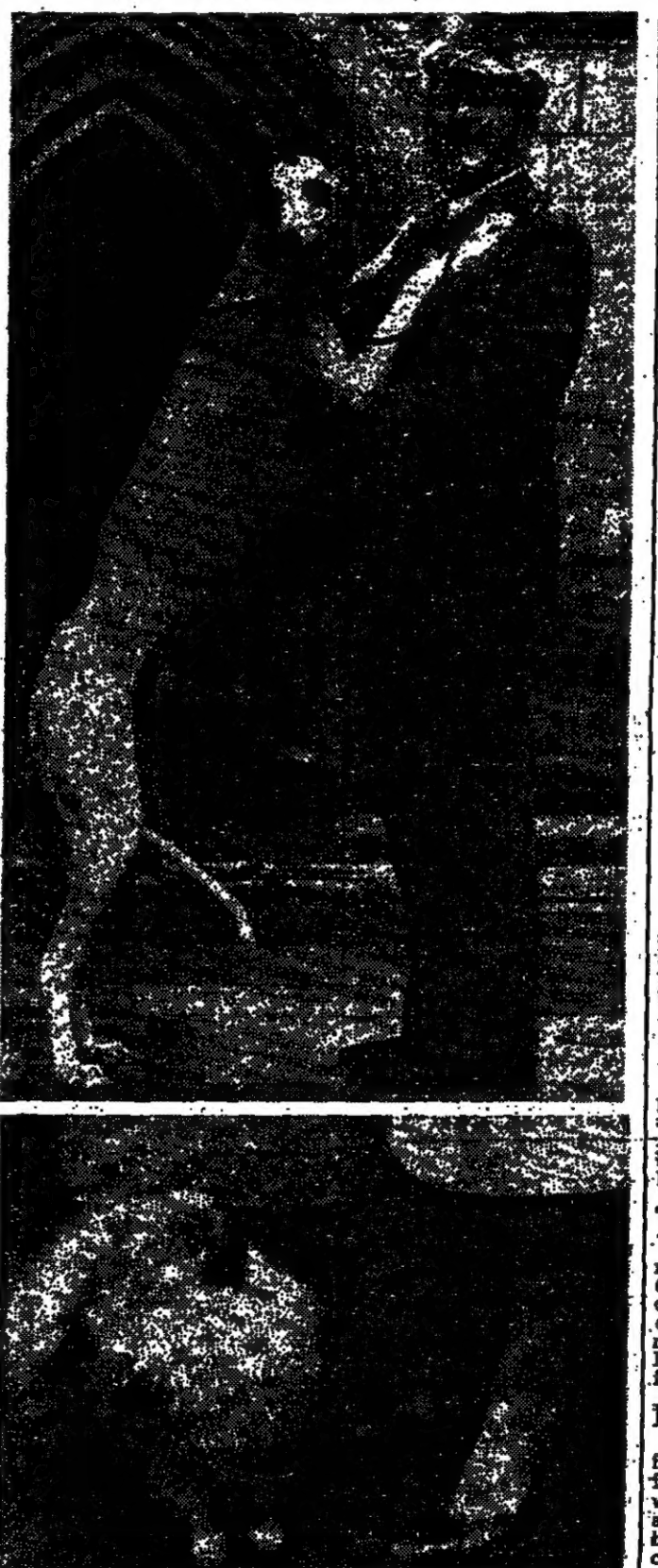
The debate generated none of the passion associated with the ordination of women to the priesthood in previous synod debates.

Meanwhile an NOP poll, due to be published tomorrow, has found that a large majority of members of the Church of England are in favour of women priests.

NOP's figures indicate that the greatest resistance is among weekly church-goers (69 per cent in favour), while those described as fortuitary church-goers were found to be 85 per cent in favour. Four out of five non-practising Anglicans supported the ordination of women.

Members of other denominations and faiths were also asked their attitude to the ordination of women priests in the Church of England, and a majority was in favour in every case except the Roman Catholic Church (47 per cent to 53 per cent).

Charismatic criticism, page 12



The champion pups

Spot (top) and Ziggy, who were first and third respectively in the Spillers' Dog World Cup of the Year for the last time yesterday, south London, yesterday.

Spot, a greyhound formally known as Champion Rych Pysador, delighted his

owner, Mr R. N. Parsons, of Wadebridge, Cornwall, by taking the top prize from 3,000 entries, of whom 10 were selected for the finals. Ziggy (Tireva's Shooting Star) is a Pomeranian from Heighington, co Durham.

BACKBENCH MOVE TO THATCHER

By Our Political Editor

An almost imperceptible movement of Conservative backbench opinion in favour of the Prime Minister was recorded in the voting yesterday for the executive of the 1922 Committee, the body to which all Conservative backbench MPs belong.

The 11 executive members standing for reelection, in a field of 31, were all re-elected. The one vacancy was filled by Mr Cranley Onslow, MP for Woking, a Thatcher loyalist. He took the place of Mr Nicholas Scott, a discreet critic of the Government until he was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Northern Ireland office last September.

The two vice-chairmen, Sir Paul Bryan and Mr Charles Morrison, were both re-elected in spite of being on the party's liberal wing.

The Prime Minister's other source of satisfaction yesterday was her reelection unopposed as leader of the party when nominations closed at noon.

Men told how to beat heart attacks before 65

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

One in five men will suffer a heart attack before the age of 65, yet the disease was largely preventable, Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Health, said yesterday.

A little common sense, a sensible diet and way of life, with some relaxation and exercise, could save many.

Dr Vaughan was speaking at the launch of a new booklet, published by the Department of Health and Social Security in its series on health and the prevention of illness.

It recommends people not to smoke, to take medical advice on raised blood pressure, to maintain a sensible weight, to be careful about the amount of fat they eat, and to find some form of relaxation, preferably involving some physical exertion.

Dr Vaughan said that although the Government was concerned about the 150,000 deaths a year from heart disease it was not contemplating any legislation to ban cigarette advertising but was starting another round of dis-

Division of functions in the Civil Service reforms

The functions of the new Management and Personnel Office (MPO), and those which will be transferred to the Treasury for the Minister for the Civil Service, were indicated by the Prime Minister in his statement yesterday. They are as follows:

Functions of the Management and Personnel Office

(A) Management systems and organisation, including support for Sir Derek Rayner, cost-cutting studies, cost-consciousness, efficiency studies, and service quality reviews of effectiveness and efficiency.

(B) Personnel management, including senior Civil Service appointments, succession planning, central management of staff, classification, recruitment policy and training, including the Civil Service College, Civil Service conduct and security, and acceptance of business appointments by former senior Civil servants and others.

(C) The Public Appointments Unit, the Machinery of Government Division, the Civil Service Medical Adviser, the Ceremonial Branch and the Government Hospitality Fund.

The Civil Service Commission will be part of the Management and Personnel Office.

Functions of the Treasury

(A) Control of Civil Service manpower numbers and associated administrative costs.

(B) The annuities and related conditions of service of the Civil Service and the comparable functions of the Civil Service Commissioners.

(C) The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster will answer in the Lords on the whole range of Civil Service matters.

Functions to be transferred to the Treasury

(A) Control of Civil Service

Police reservist loses legs in IRA bomb trap

From Christopher Thomas, Belfast

The Provisional IRA's new campaign against the security forces continued yesterday when a police reservist lost both legs after a "booby-trap" exploded beneath his car.

It was the fifth attack in a week on members of the police and the Ulster Defence Regiment. Two have been killed and three seriously injured; one of those who died was killed in mistake for his father, a part-time UDR man.

Mr. Ronald Pollock, the latest victim, was leaving for work at Banbridge police station, Co. Down, from his home in the town at about 7 am. The blast tossed him out of the car and his wife and neighbours waited by his side until an ambulance arrived. He was "very seriously ill" last night.

He had driven the car out of the drive when the bomb exploded, which suggests the killers used a form of tilt switch. It is more usual for bombs to be connected with the ignition system.

A neighbour, Mr. William McCrumm, said Mr. Pollock was calm considering his injuries. He has two sons, Protestants and Roman Catholic clergymen yesterday condemned the attack.

While it is difficult to know precisely what the IRA's tactics are at any one time, there seems to be a suggestion that they are attempting to ensure as much disruption as possible in order to secure any warmer diplomatic relations between Britain and Ireland. The Royal Ulster Constabulary are convinced that a new bombing blitz is contemplated.

Another reason for a higher level of terrorist activity could be the apparent end of the Maze Prison protests. Those close to the prison say that if all continued to go well some sort of mutually acceptable arrangement may be arrived at in the next few weeks on the difficult question of prison work. With the prison protest now seemingly over a return to traditional tactics can be expected.

But the mood of people who once were regarded as close to the IRA seems to be shifting. For example, Father Denis Faul, a priest in Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, who is probably the closest outsider to the Maze men, and who did more than anyone else to undermine the hunger strike by his insistence that families authorize medical intervention to dying prisoners, has clearly moved against the Provisionals.

He said yesterday that the IRA had no future and no mandate from Catholics or nationalists to make war, to murder, to terrorise or to kill. "They have a simplistic view: the job is to be done by them and done their way. They want to get all the honour and glory. It must be made clear to those who do these things that they cannot have, and never will have, a right or a mandate to negotiate any settlement in order to bring about the Irish people north or south."

He said he saw his function as that of bringing the Catholic people together to say: "Anyone who murders will have nothing to do with deciding our future."

Independent schools left off SDP policy group

By David Lister of "The Times Educational Supplement"

Independent school representatives have been left off the new education policy-making group in the Social Democratic Party, leading to a letter of protest from Mr. Frank Fisher, chairman of the Independent Schools' Joint Council action committee, to Mr. Roy Jenkins, one of the party's leaders.

Another surprise omission from the list, which has not yet been made public, is Mr. Tyrrell Burgess, of North Essex London Polytechnic, who wrote the discussion paper on education for the party's conferences last month.

In his letter to Mr. Jenkins Mr. Fisher says that "any suggestion that there is no voice of the independent sector" is not only because of our experience in providing opportunities for children of all sorts of differing abilities in the independent sector, but also because I feel that there is a good opportunity to rethink the whole provision of education at secondary school level."

Mr. Tim Devlin, director of the Independent Schools Information Service and an SDP member, said this week: "After not being called to speak at the SDP conference I am not surprised at not being included on this committee, but I would obviously not turn down a request. I am especially surprised that John Rae (head of Westminster School) has not been included."

Mr. Christopher Smallwood, the SDP's policy coordinator and a former Cabinet Office and Treasury civil servant, said: "We have started from square one with the working parties trying to get the right balance. We did not want to be a pious school people, but they did not want to be members. There is absolutely no hostility. One of our constant irritations is that people think we want to abolish independent schools. We have been hooded with accusations of people wanting to be on these working parties."

The group includes Mr. John Roper, MP, chairman; Mr. Tom McNally, MP, the new education spokesman in the Commons; Lord Henry of Watton, former vice-chancellor of the Open University; Sir Frederick Dainton, chancellor of Sheffield University; Mrs. Jean Floud, principal of Newham College, Cambridge; Sir Norman Lindop, director of Hatfield Polytechnic; Lord Sainsbury, SDP representative on the GLC; Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, vice-chancellor of Cambridge University; and Dr. William Taylor, director of the London Institute of Education.

Policy statements criticising the cuts in university finances have been submitted to the Social Democratic Party by the Association of University Teachers in support of the union's mass lobby of Parliament next Wednesday (Our Education Correspondent writes).

The SDP said the proposed cuts were wrong in themselves, had not been allocated in any rational way and had to be made far too quickly.

The Liberal statement regretted that universities providing the most practical courses had often fared the worst.



Windsurfing on wheels: Competitors preparing for the first national landsailing competition, at North Weald airport, Essex, this weekend.

Lorry kills man in his front room

From Our Correspondent, Gloucester

Mr. James Roberts, aged 55, was killed early yesterday when a lorry crashed into the front room of his house and shed its 20-ton load of steel plates.

His body was buried for nearly 12 hours in the wreckage of the cottage in Quay Row, Lower Lydbrook, Gloucestershire.

Mrs. Doreen Roberts, aged 46, his wife, and their son, Craig, aged 23, were trapped for several hours. Last night Mr. Craig Roberts was critically ill in hospital with crushed legs. Mrs. Roberts's condition was fair.

Another son, Dominic, aged 19, escaped injury. He said yesterday: "I was just in bed when I heard the lorry coming on the road above. I went to the window and then heard the bump. When I went on to the landing there was dust, rubble and wood everywhere."

The lorry driver, Mr. Martin Wiggins, aged 31, of Glastonbury, Wiltshire, was not injured. The vehicle belonged to John James Transport, of Lydbrook.

College presses for direct funding

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Intense frustration with London University's cumbersome central administrative processes has prompted University College, the largest and oldest of the university's institutions, to seek direct funding by the University Grants Committee (UGC).

Other colleges, such as the London School of Economics, which is keeping a close watch on developments at University College, may follow suit. The move could bring about radical changes in the shape and structure of the university, possibly leading to a much closer federal system or even to an eventual break-up of the university.

The decision to apply for direct funding from the earliest practicable date has already received the unanimous approval of University College's academic board and finance committee, and is expected to be approved formally by the governing body on Tuesday.

The application has to go before the UGC and the Senate of the university, where it is certain to encounter strong opposition from some of the smaller colleges, before being submitted to the UGC.

At present, the UGC makes a grant to London University as a whole, which is distributed between the various schools and institutes according to a formula decided by the university's court.

Although, like other universities, London has been told what its grant is to be over the next three years, the colleges have been told only what their grant is to be for the current year. No decision is to be taken on the grant distribution in subsequent years until the internal subject review committees have had a chance to report.

Many colleges feel that that has made planning impossible, especially where big cuts are involved. Some of the larger colleges also angry that the court has decided to distribute the cuts between subjects on a strictly even-handed basis, so that the good and the less-good have suffered equally.

Because of its particular balance of subjects, University College, which has 6,000 students, has found that its grant of about £20m has been cut by 6.6 per cent this year, more than double the average cut for the university as a whole. It believes it would have fared much better if the UGC had decided where the cuts should fall.

There is also an increasing sense of disillusionment among many London academics over the apparent inability of the university to take any firm decisions as to its future.

The recommendations of a series of committees—Flowers, Le Quesne, Swinnerton-Dyer—have been rejected by the Senate. A number of colleges, particularly the stronger, larger ones, feel they would be better "going it alone".

Direct-funding would certainly make University College more autonomous. However, it wants to remain an integral part and a fully participating member of London University with the same relationship to the centre as Imperial College, the only London college that is funded directly.

Professor Randolph Quirk, London's new vice-chancellor and a former member of University College, told *The Times* that he was "not at all sure that direct-funding would be in the best interests of University College; but if I became convinced that it were, I would not stand in their way for one second." He did not believe that it could lead to the break-up of the university.

Transfers to solitary jail criticized

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

The Prison Department has repeatedly transferred nationalist security prisoners to solitary confinement in local prisons, without bringing disciplinary charges, for periods longer than the permitted 28 days, the Howard League for Penal Reform said yesterday in its annual report.

"One might ask what the Boards of Visitors have been doing," Mr. Martin Wright, the league's director, said yesterday. There has recently been controversy in *The Times* correspondence columns about the effectiveness of the scrutiny by boards of visitors, the watchdogs of prisons on the public's behalf.

The prisoners were sent to local jails for "control reasons". Seventy-seven transfers were made there in 1980. In 34 instances the prisoner stayed in the local prison for longer than 28 days before being transferred permanently elsewhere. Transfer is at the discretion of the governor.

The annual report calls on the Government to "rationalize and reduce the sentencing powers of the courts, and thereby check the excessive use of imprisonment."

There was a 40 per cent increase last year in the number of persons given community service orders, according to Home Office probation statistics.

Probation and After-Care Statistics, England and Wales 1980. £4.80, from Home Office Statistical Department, Room 1806, Tower, London, Surrey, KT6 7DS.

NEW USE FOR PIT WASTE

Sir Ralph Verney, chairman of the state-financed Nature Conservancy Council, called yesterday for greater use of mining waste in building materials, to preserve land from excavation for sand and gravel.

He also wants more Government research on solar power to balance the large sums spent on investigating nuclear power.

Sir Ralph, a former member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, said that 3,000 million tons of waste was lying on sites in Britain.

GLC staff pocket £150 and still take cash

By Robin Young

Many of the 960 parks and recreation staff of the Greater London Council who have been given £150 each as an inducement to accept payment by Giro cheque rather than cash can still insist on payment by cash.

The GLC's offer, made after more than 300 of the employees refused to accept cheques without a payment, has been described as "tossing rate-payers' money away" by Conservative GLC spokesmen. The £150 payment is larger than inducements offered by firms.

Mr. John Carr, chairman of the GLC Staff Committee, said yesterday that the payments had been approved last July without Conservative opposition. In other GLC departments workers had been given a half-hour's paid free time to bank their cheques.

The workers' right to insist upon payment in cash derives from the nineteenth century Truck Acts, designed to stamp out exploitation of workers who were paid in scrip or tokens redeemable only at company shops. The right of manual workers to insist on cash payment was perpetuated by the Payment of Wages Act, 1960.

Mr. Carr agreed that the workers' right could not be bought out but said NUPE, the union with which the agreement was negotiated before Labour took control of the GLC in May, had promised 100 per cent participation.

Manual workers who agree to be paid by cash or other means can withdraw that request at a month's notice. But the Act does not define what a manual worker is. While gardeners would presumably qualify, turnstile attendants might not.

High Street banks estimate that the average saving to employers of cashless payment could be £25 to £30 a year per employee.

The chief Inspector of Audit for local government services reported last year that the cost to London boroughs of paying in cash was £84 per employee per year. Payment by cheque would cost £16.

The Central Policy Review Staff (the government "think tank") estimates that it costs more than £25m to pay 2,600,000 local government employees weekly in cash. That could be halved if payment were made in other ways, and reduced to between £2 and £3m if the period of payment were simultaneously extended to a month.

Artist wins £500 damages over Montagu portrait

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu did not commission the six ft portrait of himself surrounded by veteran cars painted by Marcelino Alvarez, a Spanish artist, a High Court judge decided in London yesterday.

Lord Montagu never agreed to pay £3,500 for the painting, as Mr. Alvarez claimed, nor did he agree to foot the bill for 5,000 posters to be made from the picture and sold on a 50-50 profit-sharing basis. Judge Hawser, QC, said.

But he had probably agreed to accept 1,000 posters for sale at the Beaulieu Motor Museum and to share the proceeds of sale with Mr. Alvarez. The judge awarded Mr. Alvarez £500 damages, and £150 interest, against Lord Montagu on the basis of that agreement.

The painting had been promised as a gift to Lord Montagu by Mr. Kim Wan, the painter's former agent, the judge said. About the posters there had been muddled thinking during negotiations between a subsequent agent and Lord Montagu.

Mr. Alvarez was described by the judge as "hard working, conscientious and honest." Mr. Wan had negotiated with Lord Montagu about the suggested painting and posters. Mr. Wan promised the painting as a gift. The painting was completed, but eventually the painter and Mr. Wan fell out. Mr. Harry Smythson then became the agent.

The case was an example of unfortunate misunderstandings. But at no time had Lord Montagu agreed to be responsible for payment.

Aid plan for disabled in poor nations

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

The number of disabled people in the Third World could be halved in 20 years through simple and inexpensive technologies, Sir John Wilson, president of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness said yesterday. But without action the numbers could double.

Sir John was introducing a declaration on the prevention of disability, unanimously agreed at the end of a seminar of international experts at Leeds Castle, Kent. The declaration, which is to be sent to governments and United Nations agencies, calls for a worldwide expansion of immunization programmes, being disabled each year by six common diseases.

Sir John, who promoted the seminar as part of the British Government's contribution to the International Year of Disabled People, said the experts were not talking about speculative science. Simple and inexpensive controls already existed.

"There are 450 million people who are disabled in the world," Sir John said. "That is twice the population of the United States or of Europe. Disability is one of the largest causes of economic loss and of human suffering. Most of this disability is preventable, and much of it is reversible and curable."

Sir John said 10 million people could be cured of blindness by a cataract operation costing £3 a time, and 10 million were deaf for want of another simple operation.

The declaration says that for 83 per cent five million children a year could be immunized against poliomyelitis, measles, tetanus, whooping cough, diphtheria and tuberculosis.

JEW AGREES £6,250 FOR DISMISSAL

By a Staff Reporter

Mr. Anthony Simmons, the solicitor dismissed from Britain's second largest property company, MEPC, because he was Jewish, has agreed a settlement of £6,250 compensation from the company and a contribution towards his legal costs.

The agreement, reached at the offices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) on Tuesday, ends a series of legal actions by Mr. Simmons, aged 44, to establish that his dismissal from his £14,500-a-year job as assistant company secretary last year was unfair.

An industrial tribunal found in Mr. Simmons's favour in September, rejecting fears of an Arab boycott list that was said to include 1,100 British company names when it was given to a House of Lords select committee in 1978.

£600 FINE OVER DEMOLITION

A junior surveyor in a land agent's office gave an order for a contractor to demolish a fifteenth-century protected manor house to make way for a farm drain, magistrates at Ludlow, Shropshire, were told yesterday.

Experts had described Padmore Manor at Onibury, near Ludlow, as a building beyond monetary value. Nicholas Clark, aged 27, had been working for the agents, Lane, Fox and Partners, of Middle Aston, for only a few months when he gave the order.

Mr. Clark, who admitted the charges of ordering demolition of the building and an adjoining seventeenth-century barn, was fined £600 with £500 costs. Mr. Christopher Lockhart-Mumery, for the defence, said Mr. Clark had no knowledge of the status of the manor house because of an error by South Shropshire District Council.

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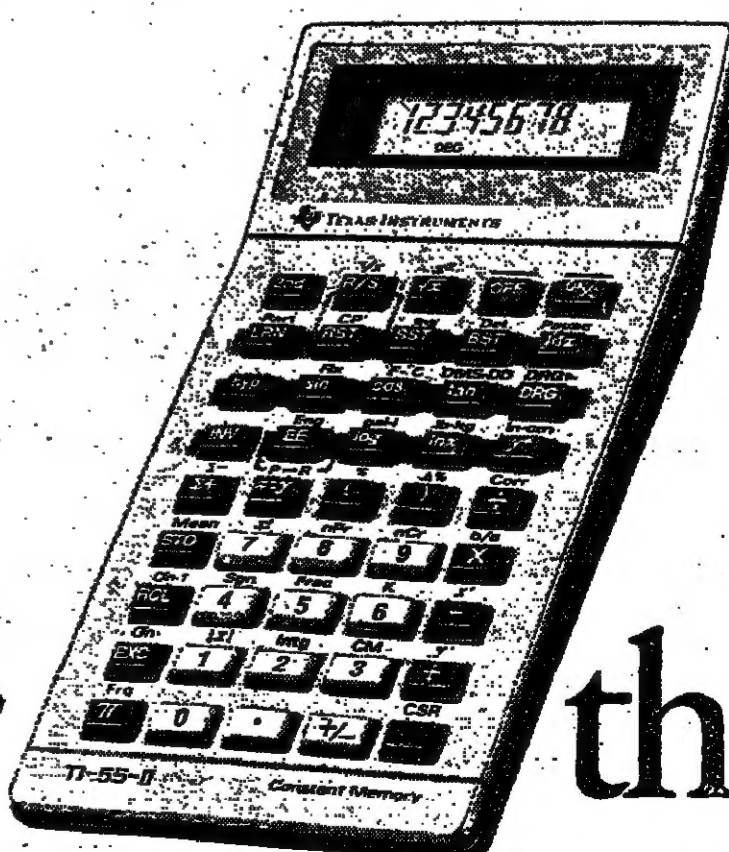
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Surgeon's lover proclaims her innocence from dock

From Ronald Kershaw, Middlesbrough

Pamela Collison, jointly charged with her lover, Paul Vickers, a Newcastle surgeon, with the murder of his wife, Margaret, in June 1979, yesterday addressed Teesside Crown Court for the first time.

Exercising her right to make a statement from the dock, Miss Collison, aged 34, of New Barnet, Haringford, denied being involved in the murder of Mrs Vickers or knowing that CCNU, the anti-cancer drug, which it is alleged was used to kill Mrs Vickers, was to be given to her.

She told the court: "My Lord, I have chosen to make a statement from the dock because there is very little I can add to what I told police in May, 1980. I do not wish to go into the details of the personal and intimate relationship with Mr Vickers."

Before Miss Collison made her statement, Mr Robin Stewart, QC, for her defence, told the jury of seven men and five women that he would call no evidence. That meant that she could not be cross-examined.

In a cultured voice, Miss Collison told the court: "Mr Vickers told me that the drug CCNU was unavailable to him in Newcastle upon Tyne and he felt that that was unfair because he wanted it for research trials."

"Perhaps I was stupid not to have questioned him further but I believed him to be acting correctly, being a prominent member of the British Medical Association and the General Medical Council. I had no idea that the drug was to be used in any way other than was properly medically directed."

Referring to allegations of blackmail, Miss Collison said: "I have never blackmailed Mr Vickers in cash or kind and I

resent his attempts to besmirch my reputation and the inferences he draws from any relationship I might have had."

Miss Collison rejected suggestions in Mr Vickers's evidence that she had suffered from venereal disease.

She said she wanted to make it clear that all her relationships with Mr Vickers had been on a purely political basis.

Referring to other aspects of Mr Vickers's evidence, Miss Collison said: "I have never made any applications to the Criminal Injuries Board and I have never been raped nor sexually abused. I have no scars on my back or elsewhere, nor cigarette burns on my face."

She added: "I have had arguments and fights with him, especially after discovering his marriage in St Die (in eastern France) in April, 1978, but I have never attacked him with any weapon nor have I terrorized him in any way."

"The letters I received from Mr Vickers I regarded as nothing more than love letters, and I never thought there was anything sinister in them and I still don't."

After St Die, Mr Vickers had explained to her that his wife was a schizophrenic and had been confined to a mental hospital since the birth of their son. "He later told me that divorce proceedings were under way. I had no idea at the time that he lived with his wife", Miss Collison said.

She said Mr Vickers accompanied her to many dinners, conferences and parties. He introduced her to many members of the BMA executive and she introduced him to various academics and other friends.

In July, 1979, Miss Collison said Mr Vickers persuaded her to see a gynaecologist. In

November, 1979, she believed that she was pregnant and later in the month they agreed to get married.

"In early December I made provisional arrangements in London. I then discovered I was not pregnant and so because of his eccentric behaviour I cancelled the provisional registrar office booking."

She said that Mr Vickers's behaviour became increasingly peculiar. "He told me on several occasions to commit suicide."

In May, 1980, she had discovered the undispensed prescription in the name of Mrs Alabaster among papers at her home. She became suspicious. She was concerned at Mr Vickers's eccentric behaviour, his mental state and his wife's sudden death. She said: "He had not told me she was ill. He merely told me when she was dead."

After finally making contact with Dr Gerard Vaughan (the Minister for Health), whose parliamentary private secretary forwarded his advice that she should go to the police, that is what she did in May, 1980.

Making his closing speech for the prosecution, Mr Harry Ognall, QC, said the murder of Mrs Margaret Vickers was a perfect crime.

He submitted that there had been a "shared, systematic, skilful and successful plot to destroy Margaret Vickers". It was the perfect crime because the documentary evidence for CCNU in five different names, lying unremarked in chemists' files, would have remained concealed for ever unless one of the two persons responsible for her death chose to say something.

The trial continues



Royal lap of honour at York

The Prince and Princess of Wales at York's Rugby League ground yesterday where they were cheered by 7,000 children at the end of a busy visit to the city. Earlier the Princess had put a brave face on her pregnancy when she visited the National Railway Museum, despite clearly feeling unwell. She insisted on accompanying Prince Charles throughout his 90-minute tour of the museum and doggedly climbed in and out of train railway carriages. Afterwards the couple flew to Chesterfield where they touched down before another large and cheering crowd (Hugh Clayton writes). The opening of a £12m shopping development there by the Prince ended a bitter controversy that began more than 30 years ago.

The centre, which includes space for one of the largest open-air markets in England, came

second in the non-residential section of this year's conservation awards sponsored by *The Times*. It plans begun in the 1950s had not been checked, almost all the buildings seen by the royal couple would have been destroyed to make way for a vast precinct with more than 200 shops. The final version of that project reached the point where compulsory purchase orders were issued to the owners of old buildings before the scheme was overthrown.

FISH FACES GENERATION GAP

By John Young

A generation of housewives under the age of 30 was largely unfamiliar with fresh fish, Mrs Janet Graham, of the National Federation of Consumers' Associations, told a conference in London yesterday.

She blamed their ignorance on the rapid decline in retail outlets, a claim supported by Mr Denis Stevenson, one of the conference chairmen.

The conference was called to discuss a controversial report published last July, of which Mr Stevenson was co-author, which criticized the marketing methods of the British fish industry.

Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, told the conference that there was no room for complacency.

Video owners warned of fire danger

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Owners of video recorders and television sets have been warned about fire risks after three elderly women died in a Lancashire nursing home.

The women died in a fire at Northwood Nursing Home, Blackburn, on Monday, and more than 30 old people were affected by fumes and smoke.

Lancashire County Council, which blamed a television set failure as the most likely cause, has said: "It is important to ensure that all electrical appliances are unplugged at the socket before retiring to bed". The plug in the home had not been taken out, and wiring to the television, fire and radio was live.

A similar warning has come from the Fire Protection Association, a body supported by insurance companies.

The warnings raise questions about video recorders with a time switch left plugged in to record pro-

grammes during the owner's absence. The association says: "There is a danger that any electrical equipment that is functioning while you are not there."

Although the Home Office says video recorders are a lesser risk than television sets, a senior investigation officer with the London Fire Brigade told *The Times*:

"Without a shadow of doubt, a fatal fire last February which I examined could be attributed to a video recorder."

The equipment was timed to switch on the following day. "When I queried why the plug was not taken out, I was told that would mean resetting the digital clock every day."

Although there are no figures available, the officer did not believe the video fire was unique. He had heard of similar cases.

The Home Office Review of

Fire Policy, published in 1980, said that between 1968 and 1977 among domestic appliances fires only those involving television sets had shown any real increase, rising from 1,300 in 1968 to more than 2,000 in 1974 and 1976, before falling slightly in 1977. There has since been a slight downward trend.

The proportion of households with television sets rose from 90 per cent in 1968 to 96 per cent in 1977. In 1977, 90 per cent of television fires involved faults within the equipment and only two per cent were caused by power being left on. Only a small proportion of them occurred during sleeping hours.

But an official at the Department of the Environment's Fire Research Station at Boreham Wood, said that the danger of fires in sleeping hours was that they would be

fatal.

Mental health cases for Strasbourg

By Lucy Hodges

A new generation of mental patient rights' cases have gone, or are about to go, to the European Commission of Human Rights alleging that British law and practice breaches the rules of natural justice.

The day after publication of the new mental health Bill, Mind, the mental health charity, announced that it had lodged or was about to lodge two more complaints in Strasbourg protesting at the length of time patients wait for a mental health review tribunal hearing, and their lack of representation at the hearings.

At present five other cases

are working through the European rights machine. Three are on the same point as the recent European court judgment: the lack of an independent hearing for patients to challenge their detention.

They were reported in *The Times* on June 9 last year and have been referred to the committee of ministers. Rulings are expected against the United Kingdom if it does not announce amendments to the Bill.

The other two cases concern Section 141 of the Mental Health Act which prevents patients from suing health service staff over

detention, brutality or indeed anything unless they show the person acted in bad faith or without reasonable care and unless they can get the permission of a High Court judge.

According to Mr Larry Gostin, legal director of Mind, this means that patients cannot challenge whether or not a member of staff acted unlawfully.

Section 141 is acknowledged to be an anomaly and there is some surprise that the new Bill did not propose amendments to it. These two cases have also been reported in *The Times*.

Health Bill controversy, page 9

Health firm to set up private clinics

By Annabel Ferriman
Health Services Correspondent

A network of private doctors' surgeries is to open in central London, to provide private health care for registered patients and emergency treatment for drop-in callers.

The plan has been drawn up by Medicovert, a company that was launched two years ago to provide private home visits for anyone in London. It was to deal with patients who could not persuade their family doctors to pay home visits.

The company, which has about 1,000 families on its books, was criticised at first by the British Medical Association, which claimed that patients would not receive continuity of care if they were looked after predominantly by their GP but received home visits from another doctor.

Since then the company, which says it is breaking even financially, has been having talks with the BMA to find a compromise.

Its solution, which it claims will revolutionize health care in London, is to ask its clients to de-register from their family doctors and to register exclusively with them.

For an annual subscription of £20, a patient will be guaranteed a home visit within an hour of requesting it, for which they will have to pay £8.

A patient will also be able to visit any one of the 12 surgeries that are being planned for central London for £5 a consultation.

The surgeries, which will open over the next four years and eventually extend to the provinces, will also care for foreigners, tourists, shoppers or anyone who is taken ill at work and does not want to go home to see his or her own doctor or to go to a hospital casualty department.

A caller will be charged a minimum of £12 a consultation. Doctors' private prescriptions will cost from £2 to £5.

The surgeries, which will each have four doctors, a nurse and a pharmacist, will have smoked-glass windows, tropical plants and thick carpets. They will be open from 8 am to 8 pm, Mondays to Fridays.

The first two surgeries, which will be sited at Victoria and in Baker Street, are to open next March. The company has an investment target of £1m and claims it is half way towards raising it.

The BMA said: "We have examined Medicovert's proposals and can find no objection to them."

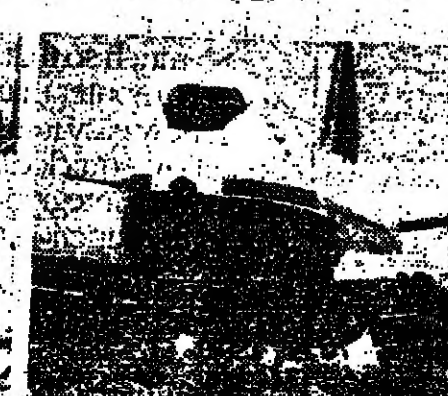
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PIA
Great people to fly with

Botha pleads for patience over apartheid reform

From Michael Hornby, Cape Town, Nov 12

Fundamental differences over the scope and pace of the changes required in South Africa's apartheid system were aired here today at a conference between Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, and some 600 business leaders.

In his opening address to the conference, which was a follow-up to a similar meeting two years ago in Johannesburg, Mr Botha asked his audience to be patient, and to accept that reform "is a continuing, growing process that cannot be accomplished unilaterally and overnight".

Reform, he said, had to take account of South Africa's "rich variety of minority groups each with its own aspirations", and "stereotyped constitutional formulae" based on West European and North American models offered no solution to its problems.

The Prime Minister said he asked no more of his audience than to "accept that the Government is serious in its endeavour to secure effective political participation for all", while maintaining stability and healthy economic development.

In the closed session after the Prime Minister's opening speech, delegates after delegates reportedly rose to express concern about the slow pace of apartheid liberalization and the lack of clarity about the direction in which the Government was moving.

During the discussions Mr Botha said that the head of the multinational Anglo-American Corporation and South Africa's best-known industrialist, spoke of "a general sense of disillusion" after "the high hopes of two years ago".

Mr Botha said that the message of the conference to the Prime Minister was "an urgent request to move forward in a liberal direction", particularly on the question of mobility of labour.

This went to "the root of the whole question of past laws and the regulations which prevent people from moving from rural areas to urban areas and from one urban area to another", Mr Oppenheimer said. These restrictions had to go if the Government was serious about supporting private enterprise.

In his remarks to the conference Mr Oppenheimer said that the Government's plan for regional development must not be allowed to detract from the urgent need to devise "an acceptable political dispensation" for the rapidly growing number of urban blacks.

Even allowing for rural development, the present urban population of nine million blacks could rise to 20 million by the end of the century. Without political rights it was "virtually certain that their growing industrial power will be used for political purposes with gravely disruptive effects on the whole economy".

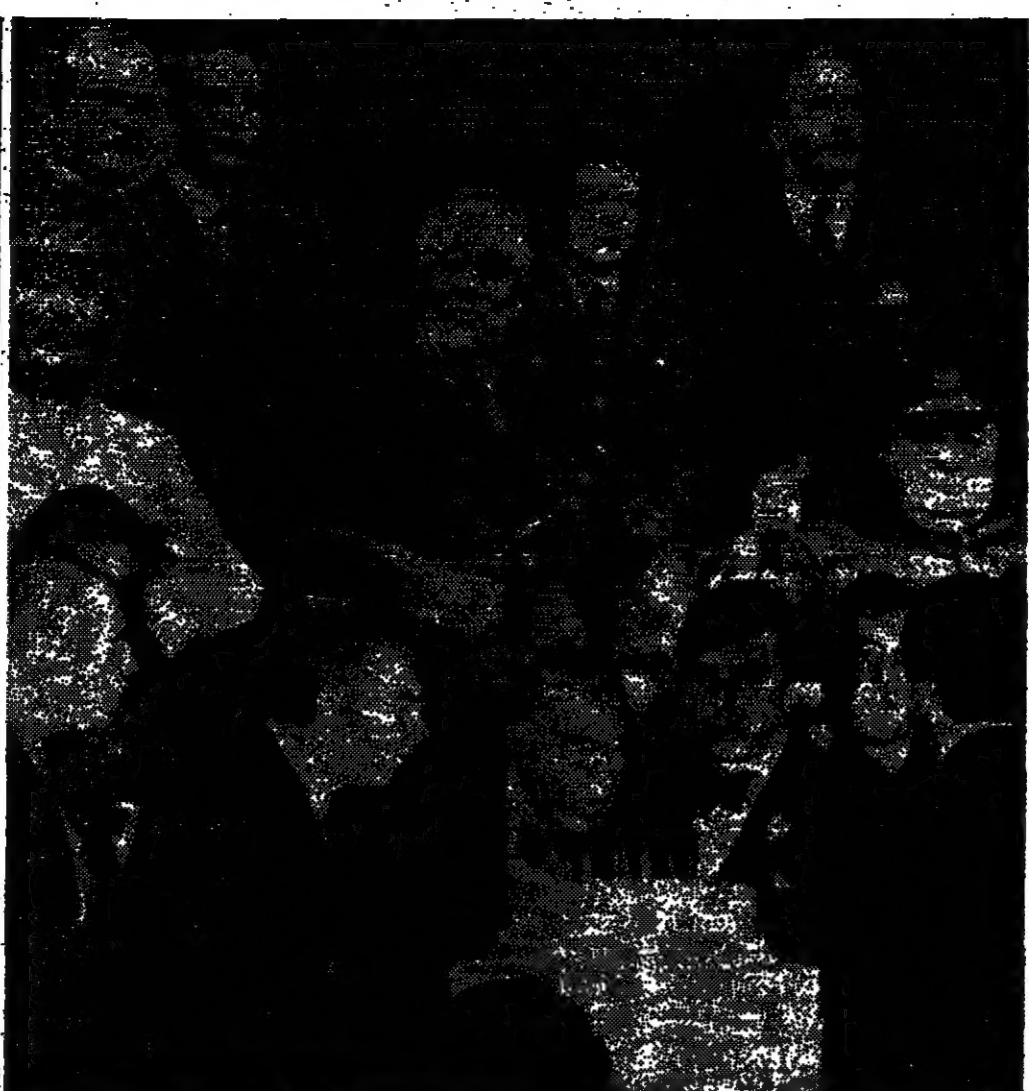
At his own press conference Mr Botha claimed the Government was "attending to the question of urban representation", but he gave no details of what it had in mind. Nor was he "in favour of change for change's sake".

Mr Oppenheimer also spoke for many of his colleagues in calling for urgent administrative and legislative action to improve black housing and technical education.

Mr Oppenheimer and his fellow industrialists are far from being anybody's idea of revolutionaries, but they have become a force for change because of the restrictions which apartheid imposes on the future development of the South African economy.

One of their main concerns is the prospect of an acute shortage of skilled manpower because of past exclusion of blacks from skilled jobs and from the technical training required to perform them. By the turn of the century, whites may not be able to provide more than a third of the manpower requirements.

Leading article, page 11



Candles in the wind: Stalin, Roosevelt, Churchill and others gaze in ghostly retrospect over the nineteenth birthday celebrations of Mr Averell Harriman, veteran American diplomat and "Old Crocodile" of the Democratic Party.

Paris talks on India's world role

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Nov 12

The three-day state visit of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister—her first to France in 10 years—is for the Socialist Government an opportunity to consolidate one of the three pillars of the policy towards the Third World which it solemnly proclaimed at the Cancun summit last month.

The other two pillars are Mexico, which has proved less solid than was expected in Paris, and Algeria, to which President Mitterrand will travel in a fortnight.

But discussions about the role of India as the leader of the non-aligned nations do not exclude talks on more mundane matters, like the sale to the Indian Air Force of 150 Mirage 2000 aircraft, which will be in the French Air Force from 1983 onwards, and about which negotiations have been in progress for some time.

If the deal, which is worth some £1,500m, comes off, it will be a breach in the hitherto unchallenged Soviet monopoly of arms sales to the subcontinent.

Mrs Gandhi, who was the guest of President Mitterrand at lunch today, said as she left the Elysée Palace that the question had not been raised in their talks, and she did not yet know whether the deal would take place.

There are still questions of price and conditions of credit to be settled. The Indian Government would like to purchase outright 15 of the aircraft, assemble a number of others, and build the rest under licence at the Hindustan Aeronautics Corporation plant in Bangalore.

The deal, if made by the United States of 40 F-16 fighters to Pakistan is certainly at the root of the Indian Government's heightened desire to have an equally sophisticated aircraft.

Mrs Gandhi described their talks as very friendly, and emphasized that there were no questions in dispute but there are in fact serious differences of opinion, particularly over Afghanistan and Cambodia.

India takes the recognition of the pro-Soviet and pro-Vietnamese regimes is the best way of ending foreign intervention in both.

Chad peace force delay

Ndjamena, Nov 12—President Goukouni Oueddei of Chad said today that rebel forces were fighting pro-Government troops near the Sudanese border, and predicted that an African peace-keeping force would arrive later than expected.

President Goukouni said the Organization of African Unity's force probably would not arrive in Chad before the end of the month because of a lack of funds.

Rebel forces were reported to have advanced into Chad from Sudan yesterday and to have occupied the border post of Adre early today.

President Goukouni would not confirm that Adre had fallen, but he said Sudanese troops were involved. Sudan has denied this. The fighting is between the rebel Armée Forces of the North (FAN) and loyalist troops of the Democratic Revolutionary Council (CDR).

The African foreign ministers' meeting, due in Lagos today to discuss the OAU force, was postponed till tomorrow because only three ministers had arrived.—AFP and AP.

Side effects of recession Drug-taking growing among jobless young

From Frances Gibb, Strasbourg, Nov 12

The economic recession in European countries was blamed today for "the appalling increase" in drug consumption among young people by Mr Francis Karasek, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

Mr Karasek told the sixth conference on drug abuse and trafficking, attended by 12 member states of the Council of Europe: "Let's offer work to young people, let's create a more just society and drugs will no longer appear a solution to the problem of rootless citizens."

Efforts to punish drug traffickers must be made, he said, but punishment would not be enough "to put an end to the scourge of drugs if unaccompanied by social prevention measures".

The conference was organized by the Pompidou Group, which was set up 10 years ago to combat illicit drug trading and formulate joint policy.

Delegates will examine drug abuse in Europe, particularly of heroin, cannabis and cocaine; the control of trafficking and the misuse of medications.

In the first statement on drug abuse by the Socialist Government of France, Mme Nicole Questiaux, the Minister for National Solidarity, told the conference that despite spectacular successes by police in dismantling networks of heroin manufacturers, supplies had not been cut off.

Networks dismantled in France 10 years ago had sprung up elsewhere. The drug trade had also become more sophisticated, with drugs carried in only medium quantities by couriers, while the financiers stayed in the background.

There were also new forms of drug addiction: glues and pastes offered by shops in wide varieties which "cause ravages particularly amongst young children", she said. "There can also be observed, in France at any rate, a distinct reappearance of addiction to alcohol among the very young."

She added that in countries like the United States, the use of medications in excessive quantities or with other substances had done as much damage as the consumption of heroin.

From now on, Mme Questiaux added, French Government policy would shift from an emphasis on repressive measures coupled with medical treatment to preventive measures.

In a background briefing to the conference, Dr Christian Brulé, the secretary of the Pompidou group, told journalists of the "alarming statistics" on drug abuse.

Last year 2,468kg of heroin were seized in Western Europe, he said, and it was estimated that there were more than 200,000 hard-core addicts in the 12 countries represented at the conference.

Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan had taken over from the Golden Triangle as the suppliers of drugs, and Frankfurt had taken over from Amsterdam as the hub of the trade.

Ten years ago, drug abuse was an elitist phenomenon. Now it was found in every level of society. One in three addicts were now women compared with one in five 10 years ago, he said.

Children were at risk as early as 12 years of age, he said. Glues were passed round at secondary schools, and in Morocco young people were getting "high" by the novel form of lifting up drain covers and sniffing the fumes.

Mr Brian Bubbear, assistant secretary at the Home Office, told the conference that Britain's top priority was tackling the increasing amounts of heroin coming in through customs. Officials this year so far had seized some 70 kilograms, half as much again as the year before.

He urged closer international cooperation, citing as an example Britain's initiative in training Turkish customs officials. "There is no evidence that the drugs are coming from Turkey itself, but Turkey is an important place on the trafficking route."

Top brass find the party's over

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Nov 12

While the Government is trying to cut back on military spending, West Germany's generals, admirals and senior officers are being hauled over the coals by the Audit Office for a three-day get-together which cost the taxpayer more than DM1.4m (£350,000).

The Audit Office has gone through the accounts for the Bundeswehr's annual commanders' meeting on the island of Borkum in 1979 and reported in its usual dry language that the cost was "far beyond the objectively justified limits".

Only six hours of the three days were devoted to lectures on military or other topics, it found. The rest of the time was taken up among other things with breakfast receptions, press events, a cocktail party and a stag evening.

They laid on a naval band and a torchlight guard and what happened thereafter was hinted at by a small item putting damage to the Kurhaus, where it took place, to local barracks and the air field, and to furniture at more than DM17,000.

The officer in charge of the arrangements had been detached from his ordinary duties for almost a whole year to attend to preparations. A whole unit had been detailed to help him and therefore were unable to take part in Nato manoeuvres.

Altogether the preparations alone had cost nearly DM1.5m and transport of staff DM55,000.

The Kurhaus and other reception rooms had been booked for nine days before the event even started at a cost of DM26,800, journalists and participants had been flown in by special helicopters and other aircraft for DM63,000 and the claim that this was all part of Air Force training was described as "incorrect".

The Audit Office dismissed the Defence Ministry's explanation that the island was chosen for the meeting for security reasons after the terrorist attacks of 1977.

Bundestag votes for tax increases

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn, Nov 12

A government package of spending cuts and tax increases, which nearly broke up the Social Democratic-Free Democratic coalition this summer, took its first hurdle in the Bundestag today.

The package is linked with the 1982 budget which is expected to be passed by the Bundestag in February next year.

During the debate the Opposition repeated its claims—hotly denied yesterday by Mr Manthofer, the Finance Minister—of yet another unforeseen gap in the 1982 budget.

Herr Bernhard Friedmann, a Christian Democrat, claimed that there would be a shortfall of DM8,000m (£2,000m). He based this on a calculation that the number of unemployed, and therefore the level of unemployment benefits, would be higher than previously expected. Herr Manthofer said yesterday that "not one single word of this is true".

Only two weeks ago the coalition parties had agreed on further measures to fill an DM8,000m gap which had appeared since the budget was settled with considerable difficulty in early September.

Today the Bundestag voted in favour of cuts in child allowances and increases in taxes on tobacco, brandy and sparkling wine. It also agreed to extend indefinitely a tax on heating oil. Four members of the coalition parties voted against the reductions in child allowances. Increases in unemployment

insurance contributions, cuts in unemployment benefits, in tax relief, social assistance, to farmers and students, tougher penalties for moonlighting and other measures were expected to follow.

The package then goes to the Bundesrat (upper house), where the Christian Democratic majority is expected to object to some measures so that a compromise will have to be sought by the parliamentary mediation committee.

The Government hopes that this can all be achieved by January 1 so that the measures can come into force in time to be of benefit to the 1982 budget.

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor and Government ministers last night met leaders of the industrial federations, the federal bank and trade unions for what was described as talks of "great seriousness" about the unemployment situation.

The Chancellor is understood to have pressed his view that unemployment can best be reduced by increasing West German competitiveness on international markets and encouraging investments at home, rather than expensive employment programmes at a time when the Government is trying to curb state spending.

The group did not discuss any practical measures but the "political and psychological impact" of increasing unemployment in the country, sources said.

IN BRIEF

General election for Denmark

Mr Anker Joergensen, the Danish Prime Minister, set December 8 as the date for the general election in Denmark, after the defeat in Parliament of his Social Democratic minority government.

The Government collapsed on a motion, supported by the leading rightist opposition parties, including the Venstre Liberals and the Conservatives, against a controversial scheme to use interest from pension funds and insurance companies as investment capital.

Pope's secret meeting

Rome.—A meeting between Signor Flaminio Piccoli, secretary of the Christian Democratic Party, and the Pope on Tuesday has been confirmed by the Vatican despite attempts to keep the secret. The party has faced an increasingly critical attitude by Roman Catholic organizations.

Korean knight

Seoul.—Dr Kim Sang Man, the publisher, has become the first Korean to be made an honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire. Dr Kim, who is 71, was awarded an honorary fellowship by the London School of Economics earlier this year.

Submarine chase

Stockholm.—Two Swedish navy helicopters and two coast-guard vessels chased an unidentified submarine which was at periscope depth instead of being on the surface, outside the south-western city of Helsingborg, the Swedish IT news agency said.

Korchnoi can hope only for a draw in game 15

By Harry Golombek

Tension, it seems, was high when the fifteenth game of the world championship match between Viktor Korchnoi, the challenger, and Anatoly Karpov, the world chess champion, commenced at Merano today.

The possibility that the challenger would postpone this game in view of his catastrophic loss in the fourteenth game was discounted by those of us who knew the firmly courageous nature of Korchnoi; and apparently it was Karpov who was the more nervous of the two.

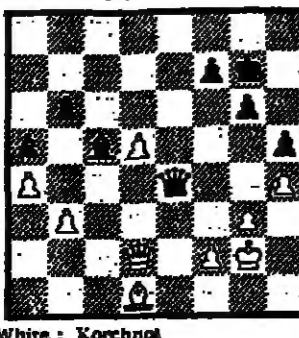
Korchnoi commenced with the English Opening and, for the first time in the match, Karpov refrained from transposing into a Queen's Gambit. Instead he opted for the open type of game that ensues when black plays an early P-K4 and proceeded to play for exchanges in a direct and forthright fashion.

Perhaps this was too direct since it allowed Korchnoi to obtain the advantage of two bishops with some pressure on the white squares.

In an attempt to relieve this pressure the world champion unwisely advanced his pawn allowing Korchnoi to increase pressure on the white squares.

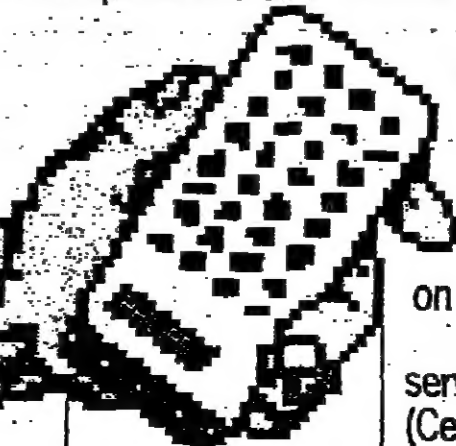
After 20 moves white was in a position to win Karpov's Q-R5 after which, however, the presence of bishops of opposite colour makes a draw likely.

Fifteenth game
English Opening
1 P-Q4 K-N3
2 K-B3 K-B3
3 K-B3 K-B3



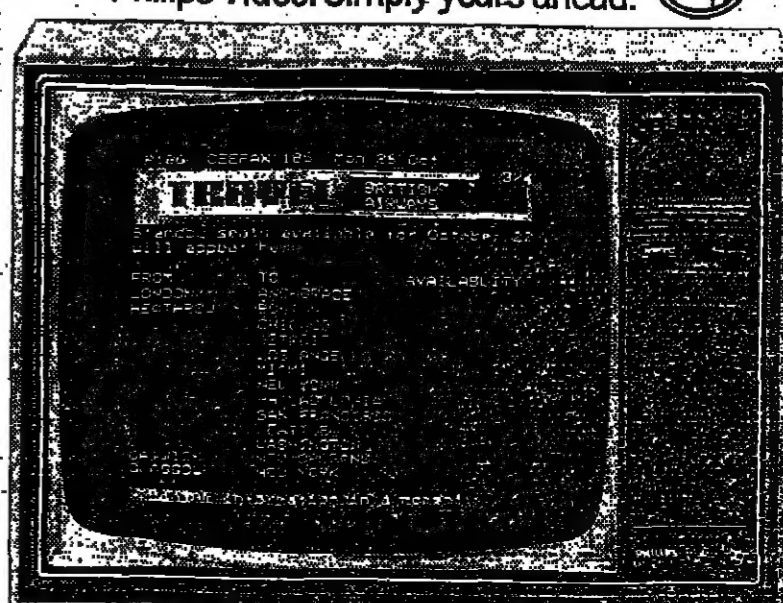
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PHILIPS TELETEXT.

Shadow of dead leaders over Bangladesh poll

From Trevor Fishlock, Dacca, Nov 12

A curious poignancy characterizes the race for the presidency of Bangladesh. The two leading contenders share their placards and platforms with the images of the dead leaders - Sheikh Mujib and Zia ur-Rahman.

Thirty-nine million voters are being asked to reflect on what might have been, as well as what might be.

Strapped to their respective bandwagon, the shahid and Zia go into battle like versions of El Cid. Their portraits are everywhere. In the politics of sentiment and retrospection their views are being changed constantly as an incantation.

The election is on Sunday and campaigning stops at midnight tonight. Although there are 30 candidates the essential fight is between Dr Kamal Hossain of the Awami League, created by Sheikh Mujib, the founder of Bangladesh; and Mr Abdus Sattar, of the Bangladesh National Party, the coalition invented by President Zia as his political vehicle.

Dr Hossain is a respected and serious English-educated lawyer, a former Foreign Minister. He is a moderate, a bridge between the pro-Moscow and pro-Moscow factions of the Awami League. He looks to the party's considerable grassroots strength and organization, as well as the shahid's memory, to win the election.

Mr Sattar is the acting President. As Vice-President he was taken from his sickbed and sworn in a few hours after army officers murdered Zia in Chittagong in May. He became a symbol of the strength of Zia's democratic framework.

He said at first he would not run for the presidency. He is 75 and has been in frail health. But the BNP had no choice but to nominate him because he was the only man neutral enough to be acceptable to the majority.

He also had the approval of the Army. And somehow he has found the strength and courage to campaign, always with a large black and white portrait of Zia close by.

Crowds at the two main candidates' rallies are huge, running into hundreds of thousands. Interest in the election is evidently deep. People are given the same programme of praise of murdered presidents and bitter attacks on the opposing party's record.

India bans foreign medical students

From Kuldip Nayyar, Delhi, Nov 12

While ruling out a ban on Indian doctors working abroad, Delhi has directed state governments not to admit foreign students to any of the medical colleges in the country. The ban also applies to children of Indians who have become citizens of foreign countries.

The government explanation for not preventing Indian doctors working abroad is that there are national and international commitments that have to be met. These commitments include fellowships in international institutions and assistance to underdeveloped countries. However, Delhi has appointed a committee to suggest measures for halting the medical brain drain.

India requires more doctors but the ban on foreign students is because they would put additional strain on the country's limited educational facilities.

Some states such as Punjab, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh charge a capitation fee for non-resident students. Delhi says that these medical colleges are private and there is no law which can prevent the establishment of a private college.

Meanwhile, a report on medical college in Bombay says that it has only one classroom for 352 students at various stages of a five-year course, no pharmacy, no pathology laboratory or even a hospital worth the name.



Mr Christian Chapman, the American Chargé d'Affaires in Paris, crouches behind his car to show the police how he escaped an assassination attempt yesterday.

US envoy escapes six shots fired by lone attacker in Paris

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Nov 12

A man "of Middle-Eastern appearance" fired six shots this morning at Mr Christian Addison Chapman, the American Chargé d'Affaires in Paris as he was leaving his residence near the Eiffel tower for the embassy offices. Thanks to his self-control and presence of mind, Mr Chapman was unhurt. The attacker escaped.

Mr Chapman, who is 60, has been head of the United States Embassy since the departure two months ago of Mr Arthur Hartman, the former Ambassador. The new Ambassador, Mr Evan Gilbreath, whose appointment was confirmed by the Senate last week, is due to take up his post soon.

Mr Chapman told reporters that it was a deplorable incident. Such violence was unacceptable, but it did not affect in any way the policy of one country towards another. He refused to speculate on the reasons for the attack. He had no bodyguard at the time, but would probably apply for one. He had no complaints against the French police whom he regarded as very efficient.

Mr Chapman recently warned the French authorities that he had received threats, and he was offered personal police escort, but he had not yet replied to this offer.

It was about 8.50 am when Mr Chapman stepped out of the front door of his home, and had taken a few steps across the pavement towards his bullet proof car, when he

noticed about 15 yards away to his right a man moving rapidly towards him.

The man, Mr Chapman said, was young, handsome, of medium height, unmasked, and wore a pointed beard which, according to the French police, appeared to be genuine. He was dressed in a black leather jacket and black trousers.

Mr Chapman added that he had not paid particular attention to him, and went on walking towards his car when he heard the sound of shots. He rapidly dropped to a crouching position and moved over to the far side of his car. He then jumped into it and the driver drove off at speed. The man then made off on foot by a side street.

The police found six empty cartridges of 7.65 calibre bullets on the spot, two of them penetrated the boot of the car and their impact marks were detected on the right rear wing.

Washington. — Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, today suggested that Libya was behind the assassination attempt on Mr Chapman. He told the House of Representatives foreign affairs committee "We do have repeated reports that Colonel Gaddafi (the Libyan leader) has been funding, sponsoring, paying and harbouring terrorist groups to conduct activities against the lives and well-being of American diplomats." — Reuters.

Eight freed in cooking oil scandal

From Our Correspondent, Madrid, November 12

As the official death toll rose to 193 in Spain's poisoned cooking oil scandal, it was learnt here today that eight of the 25 people taken into custody have been released.

The latest deaths reported were those of a woman, aged 30, and a girl, aged 16, in Madrid, and a girl, aged nine, in the north-western city of Oropesa. The freed people, a woman and seven men, were released at different times in the past 12 weeks, according to reliable reports. The Justice Ministry did not immediately clarify how many of them were released pending trial or whether charges have been dropped against any of them.

At the same time it became clear that the trials of those accused will not take place for some time. Legal sources explained that under Spanish law the extent of responsibility, and the severity of the sentences which can be imposed, depend on the extent of damage caused, on the number of fatalities and on the length of time which the physical effects of the poisoning endure.

According to reports published here today 17 people remain under arrest, 12 of whom have been charged. The other five remain in custody pending the outcome of further investigation.

EEC offer on cash for tunnel

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Nov 12

The European Community has the means to finance the necessary loans to build a Channel tunnel, Mr Christopher Tugendhat, Commissioner responsible for the EEC budget, said in Lille today. Before this could come about, however, it would be better for the Council of Ministers "to stop sitting on" the Commission proposal for a common transport infrastructure policy, he said.

Mr Tugendhat said that the risk of either the British or French Governments withdrawing from the project ought to be covered by a guarantee in the treaty at the time agreement to build the tunnel was completed. At the same time if it proved necessary the Community could consider providing assistance through a number of different loan schemes.

Construction of the tunnel, he said, would offer tangible benefits in terms of jobs, trade and industrial connections. The benefit to trade and industry would be felt in a wide area. The size of the project would also have valuable technological spin offs.

The project had to be commercially viable. Because the initial financing of such a project was so high there were risks for investors and a relatively long delay before returns could be expected.

West warned on dangers of arming fundamentalists

By Richard Owen

An Afghan insurgent leader has warned the West that by directing arms and funds to Islamic fundamentalist factions, it is undermining the unity of the Afghan resistance, and may in the long run strengthen rather than weaken the Soviet occupation. Mr Sayed Ahmed Gailani, who leads the Moderate Alliance and is head of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, said in London yesterday that Western military and other aid was being channelled to Islamic fundamentalist groups, which he described as terrorists. He also thought they had "virtually only paper-thin support".

Mr Gailani, now on a visit to London, complained that the Western powers were under the mistaken impression that the fundamentalists were the backbone of anti-Soviet resistance, when in fact they either allowed the vast amounts of arms they received to rust away, or used them to attack fellow mujahidin, such as those of the Moderate Alliance.

Thanks to Western policy, which Mr Gailani described as "neither understandable nor forgivable", the Islamic fundamentalists were gaining credibility and were coming to be seen as an effective force not only by the West but also by the Soviet Union.

He predicted that if the Russians continued to lose confidence in President Barak Karmal, they might turn to an alternative leader able to rule Afghanistan in the name of Islam but under Soviet guidance.

He declined to name possible candidates for this role, but emphasized that the Hezbi Islami group, led by Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, is singled out by Soviet propaganda as "the only resistance force". Mr Gailani added that despite differences between the insurgent factions, the Mujahidin had won military successes.

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PARLIAMENT November 12 1981

Heseltine plans under attack from Tories

RATE BURDEN

The Government had linked together an undeniable fact with a false assumption to reach the conclusion that local authorities were overspending. Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, said in opening the Commons debate on local government autonomy.

He moved the following Opposition motion: "That this House upholds the autonomy of local government and opposes any attempt to impair or undermine it such as has been announced by the Secretary of State for the Environment on September 24, including transfer of control over rate-making from town and country halls to Whitehall and imposing the device of the enforced referendum, which has been rejected by all local authority associations as totally unjustified and unacceptably unacceptable and technically unsound."

Mr Kaufman said the words that concluded the motion and the Association of District Councils and the title of the debate, "Enforced Referendum on Local Government Autonomy", were the verdict of the Association of County Councils.

The proposals had caused profound disquiet and he questioned why the Government had been in such a hurry that they had rushed the Bill in within 48 hours of Parliament being opened.

The proposals had been based on one false assumption and one undeniable fact and the Government had linked them in deciding that the problem they claimed arose from the linkage could only be solved by the means proposed.

The undeniable fact was that the rating system was profoundly unjustified and unacceptably unfair, inaccurate and illogical, and was disliked by the ratepayers.

The false assumption was that local authority expenditure was increasingly spiralling out of control whereas it had been falling for many years.

The Secretary of State seemed to give the impression that since 1975 there had been an orgy of runaway debauchery within town halls.

This year the rate support grant in England had been cut by £1,000 million compared with last year. Housing subsidy had been cut by £738m, which meant that the Secretary of State for the Environment had subtracted £1,738m from local authorities in reduced grant and subsidy this financial year.

The Government remained convinced that local authority spending was too high and must be reduced. This time, instead of trying to force councils to cut their expenditure, Mr Heseltine was trying to control their rate-making power.

The Government claimed that in pushing forward this proposal it had only a few profligate authorities in mind. He challenged the equity of that approach.

It is unnecessary and unfair (he continued) for ministers to conduct a vendetta against a handful of authorities with whose policies or political control they may disagree and whose alleged excess expenditure is only a fraction of 1 per cent of total local authority budgets.

It is even more unacceptable that to achieve this ministers should employ methods which will reduce the traditional freedom and independence of every local authority. (Labour cheers.)

The proposals took away the right of local authorities to make their own rates. They transferred every local authority into a puppet. But whose puppet? Mr Heseltine had said Parliament would take over, but that was not what the Bill said. It said limits on local authority rate making would be imposed not by Parliament but by a method specified by the Secretary of State.

The only role for Parliament (he added) will be to say "yes" or "no" to the method at the end of a 90-minute debate.

Beyond the obnoxious controls over rate making lay the unacceptable device of the referendum, to many MPs, whatever their views on local authority spending, it was the decision to use the enforced referendum which lay at the heart of their opposition to the Government's proposals.

Others may ask what was wrong with a referendum: after all it gave the people the final say. On the Common Market and devolution, the electorate had been asked for their guidance but Mr Heseltine proposed to insert a compulsory and binding referendum cut the budget making process of all local authorities.

Timing would be dictated by the Government which would also fabricate the criteria. The question, too, would be framed by the Government. Parliament was not even being asked to approve.

The enforced referendum would mark the end of representative and responsible democracy in the local authority. Not just in the few where referendums would take place, but for all those living under threat of a referendum who would become puppets dangling from the strings of Whitehall.

No one claimed that local government was perfect or that it did not make mistakes, or that from time to time it did not engage in excesses.

Mistakes and excesses were part of the price paid for democracy. Local democracy was a bulwark against the tyranny of centralised government.

Let me take the opportunity (he went on) to say in words firmly stated, to be quoted by my party that, if the Government's proposals were accepted, we do not want these powers, even though we could indeed make use of them.

We find them odious and undemocratic. If they reach the statute book and we are in a position to do so, we shall repeal them.

If the proposals became law, it would be closing time for local democracy. The Opposition hoped that the House would act, as it had the power to act, in defence of democracy.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, moved the Government amendment to make the motion read that the Government should continue its efforts to restrain the activities of overspending local authorities and to provide further protection for domestic commercial and industrial ratepayers.

He said that the Opposition motion sought to oppose any attempt to impair or undermine the autonomy of local government. If Mr Kaufman was serious in moving it, he was seeking a fundamental rewrite of the relationship between central and local government.

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Not a single member of the Labour Party who had been a local authority councillor since 1975 had been an ally of the Government's proposals.

The concept of local government freedom was extraordinarily limited. A cornerstone of the rules was that central Government had the authority to restrict the financial autonomy of local authorities.

In its totality, local government was a system of deep within the rules and there was now almost £1,000m of overspend in volume terms. The majority of authorities were not overspending by a reasonable and acceptable margin.

If they allowed for the usual differences between out-turn and budgeting, today 255 authorities were budgeting to spend at the lower levels he had set. It served no useful purpose for the Opposition to go on selectively attacking the Government's proposals.

It was unnecessary and unfair (he continued) for ministers to conduct a vendetta against a handful of authorities with whose policies or political control they may disagree and whose alleged excess expenditure is only a fraction of 1 per cent of total local authority budgets.

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He had asked local government to help reverse the process. The majority of local authorities have tried, but the authority has asked the local government to help reverse the process.

The savings of 258 authorities had been wiped out by the overspending of 50 authorities and 80 per cent of that was caused by just three authorities.

Mr Kaufman claimed that local government must be allowed to act without constraints. That was what the Opposition motion said. The Labour Party in power had to be perfect or that it did not make mistakes, or that from time to time it did not engage in excesses.

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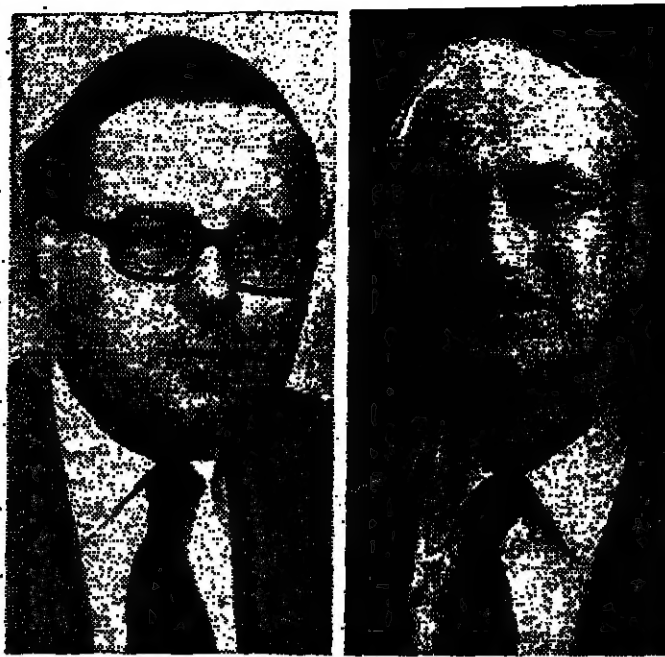
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Cormack: Grave services

Higgins: Endangering democracy

government, and would turn councillors into robots and town halls into local museums.

Mr Derek Walker-Smith (East Dorset, Conservative) said there was no prescriptive right for the Government to impose its proposals on local government. Rate reform was a vital and enduring matter. The Bill might be a peacemaker for it, but it was not a peacemaker for the country's good.

Mr Higgins (Worthing, Labour) said he supported the Opposition motion and called on the Government to think again. Mr Heseltine was not an alien concept; he was a man who had been in the Government for a long time.

Mr Higgins seemed not to trust local government, yet its record was better than that of its masters. The Government was not a man who had been in the Government for a long time.

On referendums, the result of the Croydon election or even the result of the Croydon election would be a disaster. The Government was not a man who had been in the Government for a long time.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South-West Dorset, Conservative) said the Government was not a man who had been in the Government for a long time. The Government was not a man who had been in the Government for a long time.

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Aid needed to compete with Dutch

HORTICULTURE

Both criticism was voiced from both sides of the House about the Government's decision to announce a continuation of aid next year for the British glasshouse and horticulture industries. Mrs P. F. Fennell, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in the course of replies to questions, stated that the Government was urgently considering an indication by the EEC Commission that it was willing to extend the guidelines for the industry after the end of this year.

The Government was determined to protect glasshouse growers, she added, and was considering an indication by the EEC Commission that it was willing to extend the guidelines for the industry after the end of this year.

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The Government was determined to protect glasshouse growers, she added, and was considering an indication by the EEC Commission that it was willing to extend the guidelines for the industry after the end of this year.

The Government was

The Mental Health Bill: old battles rage on

When patients do not want their treatment

Battle has been joined immediately over the new mental health Bill published this week and, if anything, will intensify during its passage through Parliament. The key point at issue is who arbitrates when a patient refuses the treatment prescribed by a psychiatrist.

Below, a psychiatrist and a barrister make their different positions clear. MIND, the mental health charity, has announced it will fight strenuously the Bill's provision on the question of consent to treatment and will make sure that amendments are tabled in Parliament. The medical profession looks set to fight its corner equally fiercely.

The Government appears to have bought the arguments put forward by the Royal College of Psychiatrists and to have agreed to set up a new quango, euphemistically

(as MIND would have it) called a watchdog, which would supervise consent to treatment questions. The critics welcome much of this, including the drawing up of a code of practice, but are horrified that individual cases will be resolved by a second medical opinion.

The world of forensic psychiatry in Britain is tiny. Many of the psychiatrists know one another and the lay campaigners are not convinced that they will be willing to override one another's judgment. Anyway, they ask, what is wrong with a layperson having a say in whether brain operations, ECT (electric shock treatment) or even drugs should be forced on unwilling victims?

Though it has antagonized the campaigners on this issue, much of the Mental Health (Amendment) Bill has met with their strong

approval. Larry Gostin, legal director of MIND, who also writes below, has called it "a remarkable expression of Government concern for one of the most disadvantaged groups in society". For Gostin the Bill is also a great personal triumph. It was the publication of

A Human Condition, his two-volume critique on the 22-year-old Act in the 1970s, which started the great debate on mental patients' rights. That was followed by the previous Labour Government's consultative paper and White Paper, which were closer to MIND's position than the current Bill.

Nevertheless the present Conservative Government has kept faith with much of the 1978 White Paper. Crucially it has moved away from the highly discretionary approach of current legislation, which gave sweeping powers to

doctors on the admission, detention and treatment of patients, as shown in the examples below, and has given the patients themselves a new set of legal rights and freedoms.

The Bill affects only the 7,000 forcibly detained patients in England and Wales, a small minority compared with the patients in mental hospitals voluntarily. Its most important provisions are:

• Patients will not be detained unless they are likely to benefit from further treatment. This should mean hospitals are no longer places of confinement, and become what they should be — places for the treatment of patients.

• Patients will have many more chances to go before mental health review tribunals to ask for their release and all cases will be

reviewed automatically every three years. Those on a 28-day hospital order will have their opportunities increased 10 times. This should mean many more patients discharged.

• A Mental Health Act Commission will be established to protect patients' interests. It will have the right to visit hospitals to ensure the law is being enforced and will draw up a code of practice on consent to treatment. It will also appoint the doctors to give second medical opinions on disputes over treatment.

• The training of social workers is to be tightened up and the censorship of patients' mail is to be considerably relaxed.

Lucy Hodges

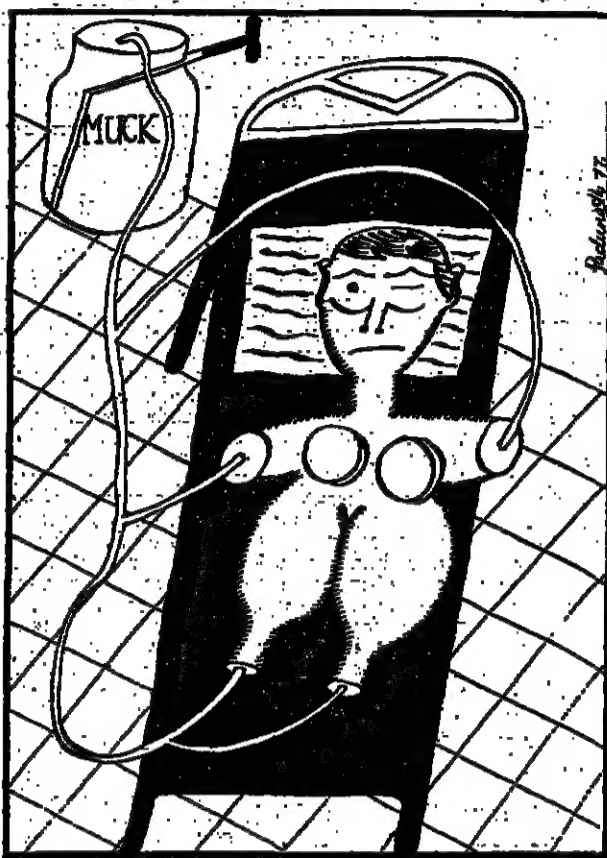
Case no. 1 The art student

Tony Jadunath was found guilty of causing grievous bodily harm to his girlfriend in 1972. He pleaded that she was not hurt badly. She spent just one night in hospital. But although Jadunath had no previous criminal record he was placed under section 5 of the 1959 Act and sent to Broadmoor.

Section 65 was designed to detain very dangerous and unpredictable patients at the Home Secretary's pleasure. Nine years after his crime Jadunath is still in a mental hospital and still under section 65. In these nine years, his case has only once been reviewed by a mental health review tribunal. That tribunal recommended to the Home Secretary that he should be allowed to leave hospital. He is an artist — he sums up his own condition right when he went to study at Falmouth College of Art. He was still, however, on section 65, under licence, and liable to be recalled at any moment to hospital without a reason being given.

In September 1980 he was living at home with his stepfather. For years, he had been taking a monthly dose of Maudesate, a drug used to maintain schizophrenics and which seems to suppress their hallucinations. But Jadunath was convinced that the drug was causing him serious trouble. He had lost hair from the middle of his head and his cheeks and scalp had two large discoloured patches. He also considered that he no longer needed to take it. In October the police called. Jadunath was taken back to Warrington Park Hospital under section 65 of the Act. The immediate cause was that he had not come for his monthly injection of Maudesate. Jadunath spent four months on a locked ward. He is still now, a year later, detained in hospital.

David Cohen



Anguish incarcerated... a patient's view

Case no. 2 The lady who wanted a rest

Margaret Smith is 26. After a physically and mentally exhausting summer last year, she asked her doctor to have her admitted to "a nice hospital with kind people where I can have a rest". On September 11 she entered High Road, near Leeds, as a voluntary patient.

Margaret spent her first night in

Richmond Ward, an open ward. The next afternoon, a charge nurse came up to her with a dose of medication. "It was a dark, brown liquid," she said, "and I did not want to take it." She refused, as she was entitled to do. A few hours later Margaret Smith was told the psychiatrist wanted to see her in his office. "I was surrounded by three nurses, and he said I had to have an injection. An hour later she was told she had to go to a different ward which turned out to be a locked ward. She claims all her clothes and belongings were taken away from her."

The next day she was taken to a side room in Nesfield Ward, told to take off her clothes and to lie down. She was again given an injection in the buttock. To her surprise, the nurses then left the room and locked the door. In the next 24 weeks, she says, she spent 96 hours raised in the room.

The case raises a central issue in the light of the new Bill. Under the 1959 Act patients had no effective appeal against a 28-day order. The new Bill provides for a review if application is made within 14 days.

D. C.



William Challis... 35 years in Rampton

Case no. 3 The stolen bicycle

William Challis was convicted in 1933 of having received a stolen bicycle at the age of 17. Because he had broken a probation order and because a doctor decided he was a mental defective he was sent to Rampton top-security hospital (then known as a criminal lunatic asylum). In 1937 he was allowed out on a conviction for sexual offences against minors. (He has always denied the charge.) This time Challis was classified as a psychopath and was to stay in Rampton for another 11 years.

Although he spent 35 years in the hospital, where he says he received no treatment, and where his life was ruined, in 1977 he was released to a local psychiatric hospital, Levensden, near Watford, after a newspaper campaign on his behalf. He is still a "restricted" patient which means the Home Secretary controls his movements, but Challis says he is too institutionalised to face life outside.

He has written a moving diary of his life, in which he says: "I have done a murderer's double lifetime behind bars. Is this the price of my crime for a bike?"

Though Challis's case would probably not happen now, it does illustrate the immense power wielded by doctors and the lack of redress for patients under past mental health law. If the new Bill had been law Challis would have been able to apply for his release much more easily and would probably have been spared a wasted lifetime in hospital because henceforth patients like Challis will be detainable only if they are likely to benefit from treatment.

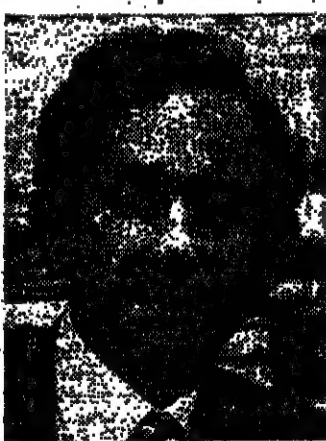
L. H.

The argument for/Robert Buglass

■ We now have the prospect of improved mental health legislation — an important step for psychiatric patients and for the doctors, nurses and others who care for them. The new proposals indicate that the time has come to consider the more controversial aspects of the White Paper of 1978 has provided a valuable opportunity to produce more sensible arrangements that should be acceptable to most workers in the field.

Doctors have no desire to use compulsory measures if they can possibly be avoided. Unfortunately psychiatric patients differ from the physically ill in that a small number are sometimes, even transiently, a danger to themselves or to other people as a result of their psychiatric disorder. Sometimes they are so disturbed that judgment is grossly distorted, irrational decisions are made, or the ability to evaluate treatment is diminished or is absent. There is no alternative to making decisions in the patient's best interests, although this is sometimes criticized as a paternalistic approach. This may involve admitting the patient to hospital against his will.

The new proposals improve the safeguards existing in the present Mental Health Act. The grounds for the use of compulsion are strengthened and the patient's right of appeal are enhanced. The many changes in procedure should find acceptance from most, if not all, psychiatrists. The proposal which is likely



Robert Buglass is professor of forensic psychiatry at Birmingham University

to result in most criticism concerns consent to treatment. The informal voluntary patient is by definition unable to understand the nature and purpose of a proposed treatment and to withhold or give consent. The detained patient may nevertheless be able to give consent competently and he should always have the right to do so, if he can. There are some, however, who are unable to give consent as a result of their inability to comprehend or to evaluate the treatment's benefits and disadvantages.

The treatment proposed in a particular case is of course a matter of clinical judgment on the part of an experienced and trained doctor who is the only person in a position to make such a decision. Where a decision has to be made which involves giving a treatment without the patient's

consent, again the decision is a clinical one, involving ethical considerations of a kind which have been made by doctors in many areas of medical practice for generations. Doctors recognize, however, that they must practise within the law and with the authority of the law and for this reason a second independent opinion represents good professional practice in difficult circumstances.

The second opinion will be provided by independent doctors responsible to the Secretary of State by way of a new Mental Health Act Commission. Psychiatrists and the Royal College of Psychiatrists in particular have mourned the loss of the Board of Control which exercised wide monitoring functions on treatment. The informal voluntary proposal to return to a similar but improved authority is to be applauded as a means to improving the rights of individual patients and protecting doctors and nurses from unreasonable suspicion.

The suggestion to provide the commission with the authority to deal with the question of consent is a wise one involving lawyers and other professionals at a monitoring level. The Commission should, however, be provided with the authority to involve itself with all psychiatric patients in hospitals. Informal patients frequently have problems, too, and are often inarticulate and unable to present them for themselves. The Scottish Mental Welfare Commission is not restricted in the same way to the affairs of detained patients only.

■ The chance to reform mental health law comes only once a generation. The present Bill, for all its strengths, bungles a golden opportunity to put the legal position of detained mental patients beyond criticism. Easily the most disappointing part of the Bill is the section dealing with the power to compel patients to receive treatment against their will. If the Bill goes through unchanged, patients may simply be interviewed by a second doctor (not of their own choosing) before they receive treatment which they do not want.

The 1978 White Paper held out prospects of patients being entitled to explain their resistance to treatment to a multi-disciplinary panel. The Bill has discarded all that in the face of a rearguard action by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, which has succeeded in banishing any non-medical component from the review of treatment decisions. If the meek shall inherit the earth it is clear that the strong will retain the mental rights.

The single issue of consent to treatment will undoubtedly and rightly be regarded as the core proposal of this Bill. For the first time legislation will state in clear terms that the consent of a mental patient is not required for treatment of his or her mental disorder.

A doctor's right to impose treatment on a patient will depend partly upon whether the patient is "capable of consenting". But there is nothing in the Bill to cover the position of a patient who disputes his doctor's opinion



Oliver Thorold is a barrister who specializes in mental health.

of his capability. Patients who are at present not allowed to accept unwanted treatment may hardly be able to detect any improvement in their legal position.

Many of the Bill's provisions are unambiguously welcome. Detained patients will have far more opportunities to query their detention before Mental Health Review Tribunals. For the first time it will be possible for the 6,000 patients detained each year under 28-day orders to get independent review.

But the effectiveness of tribunal review will not be assured for many unless they are presented at the hearing with the very thing that legal aid law does not allow. Since a decision by the European Court of Human Rights in a Dutch case in 1979 our failure to extend legally aided representation to Mental Health

The argument against/Oliver Thorold

Tribunal hearings has looked decidedly suspect. The Bill has missed the chance to bring our law into line with the European convention.

There are other extraordinary omissions. The Act at present makes it almost impossible for patients to secure access to a court to seek legal remedies concerning their detention or treatment. Even the White Paper had contained modest proposals to reform this. But here the Bill is silent. It will also leave untouched the quirk of electoral law which disenfranchises tens of thousands of mental hospital patients regardless of their mental capacity to vote.

To persuade the present Government in 1981 to establish a new quango — the Mental Health Act Commission — is testimony to the political power of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, who suggested it at the eleventh hour, in part to give dignity to the supervision of decisions on compulsory treatment. But the other functions of the Commission, the use of compulsion, to visit detained patients and to investigate the handling of complaints could be exceedingly valuable.

When there are dramatic differences between the proportions of compulsory admissions claiming to be "emergency" in different health regions, and when hospitals like Rampton reject every one of 168 complaints lodged in five years, there is plenty of work for the commission to do.

Going home, and hating every lovely minute

by Rivka Fried



The expatriate, whether temporarily or permanently exiled overseas, often finds himself living under the cloud, or influence, of his country of origin. In the case of Israel the cloud can become oppressive, like a constantly looming desert storm. With every development back home, curious or accusing eyes are turned in one's direction. At dinners and parties one is singled out as an "Israeli", a representative of some lunatic fringe or at best an incomprehensible minority group.

The annual pilgrimage home is always a gut-wrenching process, an agony of ambivalence. The first aircraft sighting of the strangely orange lights of Tel Aviv is often blurred by maddening, irrational tears.

Israel — or rather its monstrously proliferating urban centres — is a teeming, packed, nerve-jangling, horn-blasting machine of noise. But we expatriates love it; we hate it; we escape and invariably, helplessly, return to it.

The day begins officially at seven. Phones go off like time bombs, traffic is in full, musical swing. First morning home I stood at the window fresh from a cold shower (the last, diabolical heatwave was upon us), squinting at the sunshine, the palm trees and the skyscrapers. I marvelled at my ability to live anywhere else, to survive the bleakness of London. Three weary days later — days of involuntary political hammering and family maneuvering — looking out at the same view I concluded I love it; more to life than climate.

Radio is a national obsession. The sound of Israel radio blares from passing cars, balconies and restaurants: each hour is punctuated by the signal of news bulletins with the volume automatically raised. Israelis are generally politically naive; their views, for all the furious gesticulations and Middle Eastern flourishes, are largely media products.

The first fortnight of my stay was dominated by the AWACS deal. At one point the news came on my taxi driver slammed his fist on the dashboard and yelled: "AWACS, AWACS, AWACS. They're trying to brainwash us. Just like those countries in eastern Europe." I pointed out he was at liberty to switch the damn thing off. A moment's reflective silence, then he did just that. The rest of the journey was very pleasant indeed.

Then Sadat was murdered. On the day of the shooting I was to interview Tommy Lapid, the director-general of Israel TV, for an article. He met me at the door, a blustery bulldog of a man, with the news — reports were still speaking of minor injuries to the Egyptian President — but promised to give me some time. Between constant interruptions we somehow finished our talk. As we switched off the tape he quietly said: "I think it is sitting that we stop now. I've just received word that Sadat is dead."

I left, went to Tel Aviv to visit an aunt and found her in the kitchen, frying schnitzel, back in Israel.

obviously distraught and close to tears. "It's terrible, terrible," she wailed. "Just like the day Kennedy was killed." How extraordinary, I thought, that in a few short years we Jews find ourselves mourning Sadat.

Israelis take a lot of taxis. Many drive huge, petrol-guzzling American cars. The economy is wretched, the true rate of inflation probably terrifying, many items in shops remain unmarked because prices rise daily. The changeover last year from lira to shekel (one ought to be dropped, a transparent and ineffectual ploy) has left everyone permanently baffled; shopkeepers and stallholders still charge in hundreds and thousands. There is poverty, particularly among Israelis of north African and Arab origin, in the slums of every city, in the development towns. Yet the country is bristling with inexplicable affluence. Most of my contemporaries live far better than I do in London: they own their homes, their furniture and clothes are imported from the United States and Europe (there is little pride in locally made goods), they travel frequently.

A survey showed that half a million Israelis travelled overseas in the last year (this out of a meagre population of 3½ million), and that more than half a million live abroad permanently. They escape the claustrophobia and insularity, the throbbing noise, army reserve call-ups and daily gridding pressures of a nation preoccupied with itself and for the moment unable to make the mental leap from a constant state of war. But there is a new, second generation of Israelis of which the world is mostly unaware. We have few committed political affiliations, apart from the hopelessly ineffectual left-wing. We do not wave banners, do not march on the occupied territories.

But once a year we find ourselves back on that flight, back to the teeming, sun-blessed, infuriating place called Israel. One day you are walking in the calm of London, and the next nearly trampled by a sweaty crowd in Tel Aviv's Carmel market. Or racing after a bus in the heat, only to see it pull away. "Regal! wait a minute, you shout feebly participating in a 20-minute wait. The entire bus takes up the cry, "Rega, resa", and the outnumbered driver stops, reaching for your bags. And there's no doubt about it, lady you're back in Israel.

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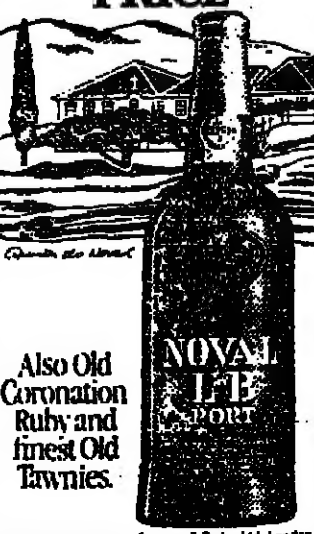
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THE STYLE IS VINTAGE BUT NOT THE PRICE



Too much has been expected of psychiatry

by Larry Gostin, legal director of MIND

The approach of the Mental Health Act was to regard mental illness as equivalent to illness of the body. Sufferers were considered ill and no more morally or legally responsible for their impairments than the physically ill. The principal objective of the 1959 Act was that psychiatric care would be available when it was medically prescribed and that it would normally be provided without legal process or sanction. In rare cases where compulsion was required its use would be a professional decision based upon the recommendations of concurring medical practitioners.

The decision to delegate wide discretionary authority to the medical profession was made at a time of general optimism about the capacity

of mankind to solve its age-long problems of disease and defiance. In particular, medicine was perceived as making great progress in the search for the causes and treatment of mental illness; this was the time of the discovery of the major tranquillizers and it was to be the beginning of an era where mental patients were to leave institutions to be cared for in the community. It was within this social context that medicine was perceived as manifestly humane, whereas the law was seen as subordinating the individual's welfare to the collective good.

When one looks at psychiatry in this historical context and acknowledges its deep association with humanism, it is curious that today it is sometimes associated in the

public mind with power and its abuse. The trend introduced in the 1959 Act was towards medical discretion and away from judicial and other legal safeguards. Undoubtedly the broad approach of the Amendment Bill is to restore many of these safeguards and to place reasonable fetters on professional discretion. Why have societal perceptions altered toward psychiatry and more importantly, why is fundamental legislative reform thought necessary?

The science of psychiatry has not fulfilled the unrealistic high expectations that prevailed in the late 1950s. There is still substantial disagreement concerning the causes of mental illness and there is no clear understanding of why many treatments

are thought to have a beneficial effect.

The deprivations of a person's ordinary right to self-determination in the 1959 Act was based on the belief that was thought to accrue to the patient. Doctors were given wide discretion to identify mental illness and to treat the patient, by compulsion, where it was thought necessary. The Act was based on the assumption that psychiatrists could reliably and validly diagnose particular forms of mental disorder, that psychiatrists have an ability to predict future behaviour in cases where the layman could not, and that treatments with established benefits exist. The psychiatric journals bristle with research in each of these areas. Yet, the evidence to establish the scientific objec-

tivity of psychiatry is today highly equivocal.

Treatments such as ECT, psychourgery and major tranquillizers have been shown to be beneficial. But there remains little medical orthodoxy concerning their use. The paternalism of the late 1950s does not appear to have been supported by objective facts; the optimism was somewhat premature. The Mental Health (Amendment) Bill fairly reflects this changed public acceptance of psychiatry. A measure of its success will be whether it finds the right balance between intrusions on a person's ordinary right to self-determination which are fully justified by the evidence of psychiatric treatment and those which are based only on those expectations of benefits.

My cry for help from a Soviet labour camp

A defiant appeal to world psychiatrists has just been smuggled to the West from a Russian labour camp in the Urals. The author, Dr Anatoly Koryagin, is a Soviet psychiatrist who was given a 12-year sentence this May for opposing the use of political psychiatry to lock up and torture dissidents. His analysis of the practice was published in April in *The Lancet*. Now he calls for an international campaign.

Doctors in Britain and elsewhere have in fact taken an increasingly firm stand on the issue. The British Medical Association passed a strong resolution in July, and presented it to the World Medical Association. In June the matter was repeatedly raised at a world psychiatric congress in Sweden, where a campaign for Dr Koryagin's release was launched. And next week the Royal College of Psychiatrists is to vote on a resolution calling for the Soviet Union to be expelled from the World Psychiatric Association until it "can show that the political use of psychiatry has been brought to an end". The resolution corresponds to one of the points urged on the world community by Dr Koryagin.

This is the text of his appeal:

Dear Colleagues,
I am writing to you from Soviet political labour camp number 37, in which the authorities have incarcerated me on the basis of a perfectly absurd, stereotyped charge of anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda.

As I did not at all have the intentions which the court arbitrarily attributed to me, I can only regard the judgment as an act of revenge against a specialist who has fulfilled his doctor's duty by obeying the voice of conscience and not subordinating it to the purposes of the KGB. It is only because I examined some dissidents who had been persecuted through psychiatric means, and because I communicated the results of my investigations to the world community, that I was sentenced to seven years of imprisonment followed by five years of exile in a remote area. Earlier, all the members of the Working Commission to Investigate the Use of Psychiatry for Political Purposes had also been sentenced.

Dear friends, let there be no doubt about the fact that the Soviet authorities have turned our most humane branch of medicine into an instrument for achieving a main aim of their internal policy — the suppression of

dissent in our country. Psychiatry in the totalitarian Soviet state brings not only succour to the ill but also harm to the healthy.

The facts about the use of psychiatry to suppress dissent in the Soviet Union have now spread throughout the world community for some years. At the world psychiatric congress in Honolulu in 1977 Soviet psychiatry was condemned as punitive. Since then, however, the dirty stain on its white coat has spread still further. Thousands of dissenters have spent time in psychiatric hospitals since that time, and many with names that mean little to anyone are still there now.

Continuous criticism has forced the Soviet authorities to change their tactics somewhat. The main weight of psychiatric persecution, the scale of which has grown still more, has now been directed to the provinces. Here the "success" of punitive psychiatrists is, as before, assured by the KGB and the Procurator, while in the central institutions (the Serbsky Institute, for example) the number being ruled mentally ill has been considerably reduced. In this way the authorities are trying to achieve their dual purpose: to suppress all dissent in the outlying areas of the country,



Dr Anatoly Koryagin: don't forget us

and also to rehabilitate Soviet psychiatry in the eyes of the world community; the opinions of foreign colleagues are formed in the course of contacts with, after all, representatives of the central institutions.

Questions about the direct involvement of particular Soviet psychiatrists in the anti-human role which the Soviet authorities have assigned to their profession can be answered clearly. First among the guilty, without doubt, are those doctors who diagnose non-existent illnesses in healthy people. But no less guilty are those leading psychiatrists of our country who — at the top administrative level — organize and facilitate the execution of this ugly policy.

Not surprisingly, the leaders of Soviet psychiatry do everything possible, and more, to conceal the shameful facts and to whitewash, at one

unintentionally advertise such contacts, trying to convince everyone that they are accepted internationally, not as violators of medical ethics and norms, but as colleagues and equal partners.

The importance of my activity in the world is well known. None the less, the interests of high policy and the interests of the professional community should not weaken in any of us a feeling of common guilt and responsibility for the lives of those people who are suffering at the hands of psychiatrists. Their cries for help (and sometimes health too) call out for effective sorts of resistance to the evil, for a constant, widespread and public exposure of those responsible, for their boycotting.

Is it tolerable that the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) should have member societies from countries where psychiatry is assigned punitive functions? Is it ethical to have close professional contacts with the official psychiatric representatives of those countries? Has the time not come to form an international commission of psychiatrists on medical diagnosis, the effectiveness of whose action would be ensured by the WPA? These and other questions could become subjects for debate in psychiatric congresses, but the development of a widespread interest in resolving the problem of psychiatric oppression of dissenters in various countries.

Soviet politicians have always, and especially recently, trumpeted across the world their appeals to live in peace, friendship and cooperation with others. It is, however, impossible to believe that politicians who keep their own people deprived of all rights and incarcerate critics in concentration camps and psychiatric prisons, really care about the happiness of all peoples. Only since the Madrid conference (on European security and co-operation) began (in 1980), hundreds of Soviet dissenters

have been imprisoned or interned in mental hospitals. The authorities have shown special hatred towards those who have exposed their repressive policy and tried to counter its implementation. In my case the court ruled my activity to be "incompatible with the calling of a Soviet scientist" and deprived me of my Doctor of Science degree. KGB officials tried to force me to renounce my views, subjecting me to exhausting interrogations of many hours and locking me up in a punishment cell. They also threatened me, saying that I would never be freed from captivity, that I would be reduced there "to a vegetable", that I would never again be able to work as a doctor, and so on.

Now, in the camp, they deny me not only the chance to extend my professional range (through work in a new situation), but even to read specialist literature on psychiatry. Every line I write is inspected, letters are censored or delayed, and a meeting with my wife is barred.

Our professional duty demands of us that we care for others, not for a moment to forget those who have stood up for the rights and freedoms which people need, and now are condemned to spend years in the nightmarish (for a healthy person) world of psychiatric wards, exhausting themselves in a debilitating struggle to preserve their psychics, a struggle against torturers armed with drugs. To remember them and to do everything possible for their release is our obligation. Their fate is a reproach to our conscience, a challenge to our ethics, a test of our commitment to compassion. We must brand with shame those who out of self-interest or anti-humanitarian motives trample on the ideals of justice and on the doctor's sacred oath.

Your colleague, psychiatrist A. Koryagin.

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The Bradford MPs: Tom Torney (South), Edward Lyons (West), Ben Ford (North) — will they be there next time?

The Militant flag flies at Bradford

The offices of Bradford Labour Party are on the first floor of a largely derelict row of houses in one of the city's last remaining cobbled streets which comes to a dead end after a few hundred yards. Opposite the office is a second-hand furniture store and immediately below it a good-as-new clothes shop.

It is difficult to avoid comparison with the state of the local party. Labour in Bradford is in a state of flux, the process of changing its clothes. After tonight it is quite possible that one of the three Labour MPs returned for the city at the last election will be standing for the party in the next one.

Already Mr Edward Lyons, MP for Bradford West, has left to join the SDP. Last month, Mr Ben Ford, MP for Bradford North, failed to win re-election as a parliamentary candidate for the constituency. In his place, a local party chose Mr Pat Wall, a self-avowed Marxist, and leading supporter of the Militant Tendency. Tonight, Mr Tom Torney, MP for Bradford South, faces a re-election meeting where he will be strongly challenged by Mr Barry Seal, the Bennite Euro-Parliamentary candidate for West Yorkshire.

This changing of the guard highlights the problems of a once strongly traditional inner city Labour Party now squeezed between the SDP and the militant left.

Diagnoses of what has gone wrong vary according to the political sympathies of those making them. To the right, including those who have now defected to the SDP, the Labour Party has been systematically infiltrated by the Militant Tendency, which has a full-time organizer in Bradford.

Mr Peter Kirkby, former chairman of Bradford West Labour party and now chairman of Bradford SDP, says that Militant members originally sought to oust Mr Lyons. However, about two years ago they realized that the right had built up a powerful counter-organization, so they moved key people over to the North constituency and began working to oust Ben Ford.

The right also sees the selection of Pat Wall as the culmination of a carefully organized campaign involving infiltration of the local party, the affiliation of sympathetic trade union branches and the infiltration of the Militant organizations like the Indian Workers' Association.

To the left, the Labour Party in Bradford has suffered because of the complacency and conservatism of its MPs and councillors who have taken working-class votes for granted and failed to campaign for them. On this analysis, Edward Lyons is a natural left-wing Conservative, the SDP Ben Ford is an unpopular constituency MP with a number of directorships and consultancies, and Tom Torney, at 66, is due for retirement.

Pat Wall totally repudiates the suggestion that Militant has taken over in Bradford by any conspiratorial policy of infiltration tactics.

"We have public meetings,"

Ian Bradley

Will the Civil Service shake-up work wonders?

The Prime Minister yesterday announced the disbandment of the Civil Service Department and the dispersal of its functions to the Treasury and the Cabinet Office. Peter Hain argues that the reform of the department's civil servants made the closure inevitable.

If Sir Ian Bancroft, the deposed head of the Civil Service, feels bitter this morning he has largely himself to blame. He is a quiet, courteous man who rose to the top of the Civil Service by exhibiting the best qualities in Britain's mandarins: honesty, discretion and loyalty. Ministers as diverse as R. A. Butler, in the 1950s, and James Callaghan, in the 1960s, respected — indeed often depended on — those qualities.

But he could not keep his grip at the top of the greasy pole. His four years as head of the Civil Service was a failure. He inherited an organization with low morale and few achievements, and he spent his first few months by instituting a series of reforms to bolster morale. Unfortunately, the verdict today can only be that things have got worse. Morale, especially after this year's punishing

will shed tears over Mrs Thatcher's announcement. Nevertheless, what has taken place is important, and sad. The tragedy is not that the limping, emaciated body of the CSD is being put out of its misery, but that it was ever permitted to lapse into such a sorry condition.

The CSD was originally supposed to be the main instrument by which Britain's creaking, amateur government machine was to be dragged into the twentieth century. The word "amateur", in this context, is not mine: it was the word used by the reforming Fulton Committee in 1968 to describe the philosophy of the Civil Service.

Fulton had been charged by Harold Wilson, then prime minister, to diagnose the condition of Britain's Civil Service and to prescribe cures. His report was damning. The Civil Service, it found, "is still fundamentally the product of the nineteenth century philosophy of the Northcote-Trevelyan Report" — prepared in the 1850s.

service, Fulton concluded, was inefficient, unprofessional, and ill-equipped to administer a modern, complex industrial society. Fulton proposed a raft of reforms. Paramount was the creation of the CSD. It was to be the "battering ram of change" — a powerful machine that would ensure the implementation of more detailed reforms, such as the method of recruitment and the system of training. Even if one does not accept every Fulton reform — and some have been strongly criticised over the years — the central role of the CSD was bound to



Sir Ian Bancroft — after four years as head of the Civil Service he could not keep his grip at the top of the greasy pole. He spent his first months after his appointment trying to bolster morale — but things have got worse rather than better.

be crucial to any programme to modernize the system. The CSD was duly established, but it never fulfilled its promise. It implemented most Fulton reforms on paper, but in a way that few reformers would recognize as advances. A civil service college was set up, but never allowed to perform one of the main tasks assigned to it, of doing high-grade research into the machinery of government. Modern career ladders were designed, but it is still rare to find an engineer, scientist, economist or accountant in the top policy-making jobs. The system of recruiting high-flyers was overhauled, but it still displays a bias towards public school and Oxbridge-educated candidates.

The CSD has been responsible for these, and other, failures. The first head of the Civil Service, Sir William (later Lord) Armstrong, set the pattern. After Mr Wilson had announced his support for the main Fulton reforms and set up the CSD, it was left to civil servants to do the detailed work, largely unsupervised by politicians. Under Sir William's guidance, the CSD set about their task of sabotaging Fulton. (Sir William once described to me in hushed tones how he was mainly concerned to preserve what was best in the old system: translated from mandarines, it still meant "sabotage reform".) Sir William's actions might not have been permanently

fatal to his successor in 1974, Sir Douglas Allen (now Lord Croham), had been given room to restart the reforming process. Sir Douglas, though, never had the chance. Armstrong's office by the time Sir Douglas took office in 1974 was a shambles. He had to give him bad advice about how to handle the 1974 miners' strike, and collapsing with a nervous breakdown in the run up to three-day-week election. Ever since, the office of head of the Civil Service has been downgraded.

Nevertheless, when Sir Ian Bancroft was appointed as Sir Douglas Allen's successor at the end of 1977, he had some opportunity to make up lost ground. Pressure from MPs was growing, through the Commons Expenditure Committee (now the Treasury and Civil Service Committee), to develop ideas about professionalism and efficiency that had been cast aside. Both Labour and (subsequently) Tory cabinet ministers became increasingly keen to trim back the cost of Whitehall. Had Sir Ian embarked on a serious programme of reform he would have been cutting with the political grain more clearly than for a decade.

But Sir Ian was concerned with defending his empire rather than modernizing it. The size of his maladministration became apparent when Mr Thatcher appointed Sir Derek Rayner, joint managing director of Marks and Spencer, to do with a tiny staff what Sir Ian had done with a vast one: hundreds of find ways of making the civil service more efficient. Significantly, Sir Derek was not given an office

in the CSD building overlooking Horse Guards Parade, but in the Cabinet Office, overlooking the back garden of 10 Downing Street.

Sir Derek has always favoured the merger of the CSD with the Treasury. He failed to get his way last year, in part because Sir Geoffrey Howe and the Treasury's permanent secretary, Sir Douglas West, were not keen to add new responsibilities to their already fraught lives trying to manage an economy in recession.

This year's drawn-out pay dispute in the Civil Service finally persuaded Mrs Thatcher to impose her, and Sir Derek's, will. Although the reorganization becomes effective immediately, it will take time for operational differences to emerge in the way the Civil Service is managed. At this stage, the most likely outcome is that the new set-up will prove better at containing the cost of the Civil Service, but be no better at improving its efficiency. That is, the emphasis will be placed on the price rather than the quality of administration.

If that pessimistic assessment "proves correct", the substance of the Civil Service department could prove to be a decisive act in a drama that will leave the stage of government administration looking much as it did 50 years ago.

Peter Kellner

The author is Political Editor of the *New Statesman*, and co-author (with Lord Croomer-Hunt) of *The Civil Servants*, published in paperback by Futura at £4.95.

Isherwood, back here on a visit, aged 77

Christopher Isherwood is hoping to abandon his Santa Monica home overlooking the Pacific next week to make one of his rare returns to the shores he forgot at the outbreak of World War Two.

A grey-haired gentleman of 77 who has in recent years devoted himself to gay liberation in his adopted California, Isherwood has been enticed to return to England to advise on the first London revival for more than 30 years of *The Dog Beneath the Skin* — one of three plays he wrote with his fellow homosexual and evacuee, W. H. Auden.

Only medical advice (he has a bad back) will deter him from arriving to consult with the producers of a play of which he is particularly fond, but which has become little more than a theatrical curiosity.

His 1935 collaboration with Auden which resulted in *The Dog Beneath the Skin* (they also wrote *The Ascent of F6* and *On the Frontier*) is resurfacing at the Half Moon Theatre under the direction of Julian Sands. It was originally produced by the avant-garde Group Theatre and condemned as a high-spirited piece of satirical decadence.

Robert Medley, the original stage designer at the Westminster Theatre, is also advising Philip Myall, the designer of the new production, which the Half Moon plans as the first part of a revival of all three Isherwood-Auden collaborations.

Isherwood became an American citizen in 1946 — seven years after leaving for New York amid growing criticism from his countrymen. Previously he had travelled to China with Auden. And it was his wanderlust which he used as an excuse for his departure.

He and Don Bachardy, the painter with whom he has lived for the past 30 years, will be publishing *October* (Methuen), a book about a month in Isherwood's life next March. Meanwhile the great man is working on a sequel to *Christopher and his Kind*, the autobiography which takes him up to his arrival in America.

A plan to commemorate their worthiness over the past 100 years

THE TIMES DIARY



Yehudi Menuhin was playing in studio one accompanied by the London Symphony Orchestra, but they were the only founding fathers to be found yesterday at the world's most famous recording studios at Abbey Road quietly celebrating the 50th anniversary of their opening.

It was business as usual at the converted Victorian mansion in St John's Wood, whose fame derives more from the eponymous Beatles album than from half a century of making distinguished records. Menuhin was at work on the *Bach Double Concerto*, partnered by a young protégé whom EMI hope will still be with them to celebrate the centenary. Twelve year-old Jim

Li from Canton was looking lovely and bewildered among the microphones and paraphernalia — until he drew bow to fiddle, when all was quiet.

Back was also on the agenda in the editing rooms, where David Bell, 26 years at Abbey Road, chief editor and spare-time organizer for the Berlin Philharmonic, was putting together Alexis Weissenberg's recording of the *Goldberg Variations*. But it was the name Elgar, rather than Bach, which was on everyone's lips. It was Sir Edward who conducted the LSO in the first session at Abbey Road and who joined the orchestra. Menuhin on the steps when his violin concerto in what ranks as the second most famous photograph to emerge from the studios.

by he august body which represents House of Commons journalists has gone away. The committee of the Press Gallery — the 300 strong band of specialist hacks accredited to report Parliament, decided to commission a special chair for the use of their chairman, John Desborough (*Daily Mirror*), as part of the gallery's centenary celebrations.

Carpenters at the House were set to work to produce a seat worthy of the Speaker. Then it was discovered that the price would mean not a lot of change out of £1,000. Now the 79 members of the gallery, conscious of the damage to their pockets, have signed a memorandum expressing their horror, and seeking "clarification" of the project.

Kim's SDP coup

While the nation awaits Crosby's verdict on Social Democracy, a nephew of Shirley Williams has been successfully wooing student voters at a by-election at Cambridge University. Kim Catlin, 20, a third year architecture student, has become the first SDP member elected to the executive of the students' union. A telegram of support from his famous aunt,



66mm's worried that if he doesn't pay his supplementary rates he'll be had up for sure dodging...

with whom he used to spend every weekend while a schoolboy, helped him see off a so-called moderate rival candidate. Catlin, founder of the university SDP, hopes his election will boost his career. Last year's CSU president, Ian Wright, who was converted to the SDP cause in mid-term, has the dubious distinction of an appointment as regional organizer at party HQ.

Seventh pillar

As nature abhors a vacuum, so does Julian Crichtley. Conserva-

tive MP for Aldershot, detest an empty plinth.

Crichtley has approached *The Times* publisher to purchase Stanley Baldwin's statue. He ordered for one of the two spare plinths in the Members' Lobby, the other six being occupied by Churchill, Attlee, Lloyd George, Chamberlain, Balfour and Asquith. Baldwin was a good Parliament man, a typical Englishman of his day and one who held a strong part in the affections of people of all parties. Before the memory of an earlier England fades, (pause for reflection) "an England whose traditional values had not been soured by our more obsessive political controversies, I should like to suggest that Stanley Baldwin is the statesman who best fits that bill."

Crichtley says he wants to open public debate on the subject of the empty plinths and expects that many will support his idea. The Opposition and the public at large will doubtless have candidates of their own for Parliamentary canonization and these columns are open to their proposals. The best idea forthcoming will win one of those bottles of fine wine which we so frivolously lavish upon our leadership. Incidentally, when naming your candidate, you might like to state your choice of sculptor — alive or dead.

Papal battalions

Lord Longford and Norman St John Stevas, two of England's trinity of distinguished political Roman Catholics (the third is otherwise known as Tony Blair), are engaged presently in a crusade, they say, to bring the Pope's image to the spring with rival

biographies of Pope John Paul II, for whom each has the highest — and a strikingly similar — regard. "Intellectually, he is in the class of Bernard Russell," says Lord Longford, whose book appears from Michael Joseph in March, two months before the Pope's visit to Britain. "But he has also a much warmer personality than any of the great minds of the century and I challenge readers of *The Times* to name a recent figure who has combined such strengths of the head and the heart."

Lord Longford concedes an advantage to St John Stevas in never having met the Pontiff. "I went to Rome, but he was still recovering from his injuries so I spoke to his best friend, Archbishop Deskur, instead. He has known him in Poland for years and told me many things about him."

Lord Longford rejects the image of the Pope as a conservative. "He is more of a traditionalist, which means that he sees the Church's doctrines in a process of development, steady development. Socially, though, he's a radical, a man of the people."

"Theologically, he is a conservative but not a reactionary. Socially, he is extremely progressive," says the former Tory Minister. Stevas has enjoyed two private audiences with the Pope and has met him on other occasions. A picture of the two men together will appear prominently in the book to underline its authenticity. He has told the Pope about the book, he says, "but I can't tell you what he said in reply."

Michael Horsnell



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MADAME GUILLOTINE

In deciding to abolish the Civil Service Department the Prime Minister has demonstrated once again that her courage and radicalism have not been blunted by the wear and tear of office. Mr Harold Wilson knew when he returned to power in 1974 that the institution which he created following the 1968 Fulton report was not fulfilling his original exciting ambitions. Mr Callaghan toyed with abolition in 1976 but decided to let Whitehall reorganisation wait until after an election victory which never came. Mrs Thatcher has done it: rightly following her own instincts, her party's ideology, and the sound advice of Sir Derek Rayner and her Downing-street advisers.

The CSD was admirable in conception. It was to be the spearhead of reform in Whitehall, introducing professionalism and specialism; subjecting the Government's administrative machine to the kind of managerial revolution which the 1960s welcomed, perhaps prematurely, elsewhere in British life. Reality inevitably fell short of the technocratic dream. Some progress was made in improving managerial procedures, but the new Department had difficulty in imposing its will upon the great traditional departments. Its Permanent Secretary was nominally head of the civil service but after Sir William Armstrong's over-exposure as Mr Heath's right-hand man, power shifted back to the Cabinet Office and Treasury, leaving the great abilities of

first Sir Douglas Allen and then Sir Ian Bancroft sadly underused. Most damaging from the standpoint of ministers and citizens was the way in which the CSD became a kind of sponsoring government to Government on behalf of the civil service. Having been set up to root out old-fashioned habits, it too often seemed to be an apologist for them. Established to reduce wasteful misuse of manpower, it came to symbolize over-manning. This suspicion, however unfair, that the CSD was representing the civil service rather than reforming it was always aggravated during pay negotiations. Mrs Thatcher was not the first politician to feel that the interests of the taxpayer were inadequately represented when the CSD negotiated and advised on questions of pay, pensions and conditions of service. She has therefore taken the logical course of putting manpower and money back together in the Treasury. The Chancellor has not been excited by this troublesome addition to his empire, but at least his troops have the skill, the respect and the appropriate tradition of financial prudence to run it tightly. Certainly there should be no need to retain and absorb all the existing CSD staff.

So abolition is right and realistic — but it does reflect a minimalist view of government and is in many ways a matter of regret. The original Fulton ideals retain their attraction. The currently fashionable

hostility to all forms of administration will pass. A more interventionist government will come to power some day and will need a civil service capable of implementing its will. That will mean having officials with managerial as well as analytical skills, able to initiate as well as to process, and preferably with some direct experience and understanding of the realities of the outside world which is subject to government intervention.

The impetus to reform in Whitehall may have run out of steam but the Fulton objective should not be finally killed off. Perhaps it can be nurtured, or at least maintained on a care and maintenance basis, in the section of the Cabinet Office which will now take over personnel matters. Whatever the institutional location, that impetus to reform will not be relunched successfully unless accompanied by changes which Whitehall has so far resisted: leading overall to a more open system with more early retirement, late entry, free interchange with outsiders at all levels — and of course more open discussion of ideas and policies under consideration within Government.

Until that happy day, there is a more immediate task. Mrs Thatcher was right to chop off their heads but present as well as future Government would benefit if civil service morale were now to be raised above its current depths. After the blood-letting should come the ministerial balm.

THE ADOLESCENCE OF THE PLO

The Palestinian people are being poorly served by the Palestine Liberation Organization. For over a year now, the European Community, with Britain taking the lead, has been emphasizing that a comprehensive peace can be achieved in the Middle East only if the aspirations of the Palestinian people are balanced against Israel's need for security and that the PLO while not the "sole legitimate representative" of the Palestinians, as it claims, must be involved in future peace negotiations.

Far from responding to this the PLO has refused to moderate publicly and explicitly its deadly enmity towards the Jewish state. The Damascus session of the Palestine National Council — the ruling body of the PLO — in April remained implacable as ever. Now the PLO spokesman in Damascus, Mr Abdul Mohsen Abu Meizar, has thrown Europe's initiative back in its face by describing Mrs Thatcher and Lord Carrington as motivated by "black hatred and evil intentions toward the rights of the Palestinian people".

Statements of that kind are clearly being made with one eye on the forthcoming Arab

Summit in Morocco, when the main subject for discussion will be the eight point plan put forward by Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia. Although the PLO is known to favour aspects of the Saudi plan, it obviously feels that it has to begin by taking a hard line, partly out of deference to its Syrian allies, and partly because — as Mr Arafat is constantly pointing out — recognition of the state of Israel is the main card which the PLO has in its hand. But the fact that Mr Arafat was in Saudi Arabia just before Lord Carrington arrived last week is seen by British officials as an indication that the PLO has already, by implication, endorsed the Saudi plan, which includes the "right of all states in the region to live in peace".

It can be argued, perhaps, that it is difficult for any Palestinian leadership to make conciliatory gestures when the Israeli military administration on the West Bank is closing universities, arresting intellectuals and punishing shopkeepers who closed in protest by sealing the entrances to their premises with welders. Certainly curfews and collective punishments do not enhance Israel in Western

eyes, let alone in the eyes of the Arab world. Israel, of course, feels under siege. Its citizens are murdered as they go home from church. Its trial and sentencing of the recent killers shows respect for the rule of law. Israel's mistakes are deeper, of course; it is in the very nature of military occupation to invite a sequence of resentment, retaliation and repression. But the PLO is merely helping to prolong the tragic cycle. It inflames Israeli anxieties. It sabotages mediation. It plays a double game. It gives assurances of moderation in private while refusing to allow a hint of conciliation in public. In this manner it has made a mockery of those like Lord Carrington who have given it the benefit of the doubt and have tried to bring it into the peace process in the face of Israeli objections and American reservations.

The PLO, of course, is angry that Carrington and others have favoured the Camp David process which has brought such gains for Egypt. But peace for Egypt is a good in itself. The PLO, by its narrow vision and duplicity, is merely demonstrating how long is the road from terrorism to statesmanship.

MR BOTHA'S BACK-PEDALLING

It had been clear for some time that yesterday's meeting between Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, and the country's leading businessmen would fail to fulfil the expectations that a similar meeting aroused exactly two years ago. Everyone was prepared for a message of gradualism and a policy of tinkering in contrast to the promises of rapid change and greater flexibility made in 1979. But that does not lessen the sense of disappointment at this formal admission of retreat. Good intentions have been defeated by political pragmatism.

A measure of the Government's present intentions is found in its reaction to a new report on education in South Africa. This was drawn up by a multi-racial team of the country's leading educationists, appointed by the Human Sciences Research Council at the request of the Prime Minister and under the chairmanship of Professor J. P. de Lange, rector of the Rand Afrikaans University. The commission was set up in the early days of Mr Botha's rule when he was seeking help to push the conservatives in his party towards reform. Its report cannot be dismissed as left-wing polemics, but it has proved deeply embarrassing to Mr Botha, who has turned his back on its main recommendations.

The government was, how-

ever, able to accept the principles of the de Lange commission laid down. The main one was that "equal opportunities for education, including equal standards for every inhabitant, irrespective of race, colour, creed or sex, shall be the purposeful endeavour of the state." The difficulty came with recommendations that this needed free association, allowing schools to decide whether they wished to open their doors to all races; a single ministry for all education instead of separate departments for the different races; and the disregarding of the Group Areas Act with respect to education. The report denounced racial separatism in education as "contrary to the social and ethical demands for justice." In a white paper on the report the government insisted that any reforms must be "within the framework of the policy that each population group is to have its own schools." Some members of the commission have accused the government of striking a "disastrous and irreparable" blow to education.

South Africa does moderately well if its educational provision is compared to the rest of Africa. The percentage of its black population at university, for instance, is about the same as Zambia, less than Ghana. The Ivory Coast, Kenya and Nigeria, but ahead of most other African countries. And things are improv-

ing. In 1954 36 per cent of African school-age children were in school; in 1975 the figure was 75 per cent. The scandalous comparison, however, is between white and black education within South Africa. A recent American report estimated that in 1978-79 the government spent the equivalent of about \$940 on each white child, \$290 on each coloured child and \$90 on each black child.

The de Lange controversy shows how the ruling Afrikaners have changed in expression of their views. In the 1950s, when the notorious Bantu Education Act was introduced, Dr Verwoerd openly said that manual labour would be stressed to prepare the African child for his subservient role in South African Society. "Good racial relations cannot exist when the education is given under the supervision of people who believe in a policy of equality." Now the Botha government defers to the principle of equal opportunity and equal standards.

This change in verbal attitude (for which overseas pressure on "polectat" South Africa is partly responsible) suggests that when the choice is between adapting and dying (to use Mr Botha's words), the Afrikaner nation is now more likely to adapt. However, the practical response to the de Lange commission shows that adaptation has not started yet.

convictions possessed by the Cambridge Group. He was a homosexual and this was used to blackmail him into spying.

During those 10 years while Mr Vassall was out of circulation Mr Blunt enjoyed a full public life and considerable public esteem. Mr Long, too, was able to live as he chose.

As a practising lawyer with a quarter of a century in legal

practice and a criminal law practitioner, I find it offensive to our system of law and justice that the question whether to prosecute is answered, behind closed doors, in a way which produces such manifestly unjust results. Yours faithfully, DESMOND J. TRENNER, Trewners, Solicitors, 70 Grand Parade, Brighton, Sussex.

Economic criterion as test of London Transport services

From Professor Alan W. Evans

Sir, The Transport (London) Act enjoining the London Transport Executive to provide an "integrated, efficient, and economic service". Although the Lords of Appeal (Law Report, November 11) have interpreted this to mean that it should not be subsidised, from an economic point of view it can be argued that a service which was economically efficient would be one which was subsidised and which would be integrated in the sense that its pricing system recognised that the public and private transport modes were complementary.

It is clear that the price private users pay in London does not reflect the real costs of the congestion caused by each user. It would be best economically to charge road users an economic price and to encourage them to use public transport, leaving the roads less congested; but if this is not technologically or politically possible, the next best policy is to subsidise public transport in order to divert traffic off the roads.

The economic principles underlying this policy have been known for some time and underlie the calculations of the social costs and benefits of the Victoria Line some twenty years ago. At that time it was clearly shown that the social benefit derived from the line would only make its construction worth while if travel were subsidised. If this were not done the line would not be worth building. Indeed the largest single benefit from the construction of the line was found to be the benefit to road users because of reduced congestion.

Thus it is clear that a public transport system can be subsidised not only for "social, philanthropic, or welfare purposes", but also to promote an "integrated, efficient and economic system".

Yours, ALAN W. EVANS, University of Reading, Faculty of Urban and Regional Studies, Reading, RG1 2AA, UK. (Received November 11).

From Mr Nicholas Clapton

Sir, On hearing of the Appeal Court's decision concerning the GLC's "Fares Fair", the following come to mind:

1. For those who travel in Greater London and don't pay rates cheap fares are a boon.

2. For those who travel and do pay, rates cheap fares are a backhanded compliment in rather poor taste.

3. It is surely unfair for those travelling in Greater London outside the GLC area to benefit from an added burden to London ratepayers.

4. It would surely be fairer if the capital's transport were subsidised from central government funds, as I believe is the case with the Paris Métro.

5. This is hardly likely to happen with the present Government's attitude to public spending.

6. This apparent impasse might be overcome if all the authorities concerned approached the problem from the point of view that London Transport is in its present state overmanned, out-of-date, inefficient and often rather dirty.

If something were done about this fundamental lack, such an extreme subsidy, being in any case "window dressing" at bottom, would no longer be contemplated, let alone thought necessary.

Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS CLAPTON, 1 Joanne House, Queensborough Mews, W2.

From Mr Toby Jessel, MP for Twickenham (Conservative)

Sir, Your leading article today (November 12), "Half way to the future", refers to the concept of the GLC's "Fares Fair" duty to ratepayers in terms of possible illegality of a gift to "a particular section of the local community at the expense of the general body of ratepayers".

A major aspect of this which you do not mention, and which was not mentioned in your Law Report of the Court of Appeal judgment the day before, is that

the present GLC policy for London Transport flouts the principle of fiduciary duty on a totally capricious geographical basis.

The old railway companies built a full network of suburban lines in south Outer London, whereas the north, east and west sides of this was left more to the Underground. This structure was to have inherited means that, eg, the Twickenham constituency has eight British Rail Southern Region stations, but no Underground station. So in effect most local commuters to central London must go to at least part of the way, and for most of these, if they are to avoid unacceptable delays, most of the way, by British Rail.

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Yours, ALAN W. EVANS, University of Reading, Faculty of Urban and Regional Studies, Reading, RG1 2AA, UK. (Received November 11).

From Mr John Levet

Sir, Lord Denning and his learned colleagues may be interested to know that in the United States last year urban transport systems received federal, state and local operating subsidies totalling \$3,618,105,000.

In addition, of course, there is strong federal and local support for investment projects. Next year New York City Transit Authority alone plans to spend \$1,296m on new equipment for, and improvements to, the city's subway system.

London Transport, on the other hand, hopes to get approval for investment of £23m, about one seventh of the New York figure — in the London Underground.

Yours truly, JOHN LEVETT, Editor, International Railway Journal and Rapid Transit Review, PO Box 8, Falmouth, Cornwall.

From Dr D. L. Nokes

Sir, The judgment of the Appeal Court against the GLC is the latest example of a growing tendency towards the suppression of opposition in our society. A local authority elected upon a specific manifesto, has had its policy declared illegal. The Government has attempted to force local authorities into a line by withholding rate-support grant. Now it is threatening to undermine the independence of properly elected councils by subjecting their decisions to ratification by referendum. When can we have a referendum on Trident? or on the cuts in health and education?

The attacks on local authorities are not an isolated issue. Trade unions, already weakened by the steady rise of unemployment, are to be further shackled by legal penalties and restraints. Major newspapers have passed into the hands of multinational conglomerates in deals which have magically evaded the scrutiny of the Monopolies Commission. Academics are threatened in the short term with redundancy, and in the long term with the abolition of the tenure system which guarantees academic freedom. The BBC is under continual pressure from the Government, most recently in the form of Mr Nott, to present information in a manner that conforms with official views.

I do not suggest that some grand Machiavellian design is at work. But the pressures towards conformism are most dangerous

when least perceived; when they arise from habit by accident, or by apathy. A government committed to policies that find fewer and fewer supporters is showing a worrying tendency to bully, ban or break opponents, often citing their as its justification. But it will be a sad day indeed when we cannot afford independent institutions, or when appointed judges, rather than elected politicians, run our councils.

A free society depends upon the open expression of divergent views; upon respect for properly elected authorities, and upon the firm separation of political and judicial powers. It is far easier to destroy the institutions of a free society than to recreate them.

Yours, etc, D. L. NOKES, King's College Hall, Champion Hill, SE5, November 10.

From Mr Harley Sherlock

Sir, You report today (November 11) the Court of Appeal's decision about the Greater London Council's rate precept for cheaper fares, and at the end of your report you quote Lord Denning as saying about the decision: "People do not vote for the manifesto."

I feel obliged to point out that Lord Denning is wrong in at least one instance. The Labour candidate got my vote at last May's GLC election almost wholly on account of his party's manifesto, which, although it was not without faults, seemed to contain the first positive proposal in decades, for sorting out London's transport problems.

It is accepted in all the other major capitals of Europe that cheap fares should be used as a major instrument of a planning policy designed to reduce congestion and thus enhance the city socially, economically and environmentally. In Paris this policy is already bearing fruit. In London the Appeal Court decision, unless it is reversed by the Lords, will deny us the means to compete with our European neighbours as a centre for business or pleasure.

Yours faithfully, HARLEY SHERLOCK, Chairman, Transport 2000, 258 Pentonville Road, N1, November 11.

From Mr Simon Allen

Sir, When the fares of London Transport were lowered the staff of LT received a special bonus to compensate them for the "loss" of the value of their already free travel.

If the House of Lords decision goes against the GLC will they have to pay the money back, or will the matter be quietly forgotten?

Yours sincerely, SIMON ALLEN, 61 Elsham Road, Holland Park, W14, November 11.

From Mrs Judy Rodway

Sir, I used to quite like Lord Denning, but you can go off people you know. His recent judgment on the GLC rate increase has about it all the objectivity of an Evening Standard editorial. And that from someone who rides Harry Fraser's cars, lorries and offices are indeed destroying this dear old city, and if Mr Livingstone can use my supplementary rate increase to improve London Transport and encourage more motorists to leave their cars at home then he is welcome to it. If he wants another £30 he can have it; it'd hurt, but he can have it. I'll happily pay to keep people off the roads.

Yours sincerely, J. RODWAY, 22 Macleise Road, W14, November 11.

From Mr George Stern

Sir, To make clear the status of Londoners as the only Europeans not allowed to vote for reasonable fares may I suggest that we alter our capital name to Denningrad?

Yours faithfully, G. J. A. STERN, Stop the Archway Motorway Plan, 6 Eton Court, Shepherds Hill, N6.

May I go further to explain that International Management Group is the organization appointed to act in an advisory capacity on the business aspects of the Paval visit (air and ground transport, publications, souvenirs, etc). No agreements or contracts may be made by the International Management Group; these are made solely by the Church.

For the work being done by International Management Group an agreed fee is being paid, similar to the payment of an architect's fee. Finally, it must be stressed that International Management Group was not appointed to perform any public relations role.

Yours faithfully, RALPH BROWN, Central Coordinator, The Paval visit to England and Wales, St Vincent's Convent, Carlisle Place, SW1, November 10.

They decided to move out from the Seales' farm after an occupation lasting six months.

The implications of the judges' summing-up — that our protest at Lushly, carried out on private land with the compliance of the owner, should be automatically in breach of the peace and a criminal conspiracy — seems, in our view, utterly dangerous and another stab at this country's all too vulnerable civil liberties.

Yours faithfully, EDWARD BUNYARD, EDWARD GOWAN, NICHOLAS HILDYARD, Editors of The Ecologist, Whiteley, Witley, Cornwall, November 9.

How bizarre, in view of recent events in this country, that Lord Denning should have censured the local police for their excessive concern for good community relations. In fact it is primarily because the protesters did not want to spoil those relations that

real intruders were none other than the Central Electricity Generating Board.

As repeatedly pointed out by the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary the occupation was peaceful from the very start. It was only incitement to violence came from the judges when they suggested the CEB should resort to "self-help" and force us out; also, that the area should be surrounded by barbed wire and patrolled by wild bulls.

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JORDAN

The shock waves set off by the assassination of President Sadat have been felt in all Middle East capitals, but probably more in Amman than elsewhere. Jordan remains opposed in principle to the Camp David accords, and its large Palestinian population has not on the whole lamented the Egyptian leader's passing. On the other hand, Jordan has shown itself to be the most moderate of the moderate Arab states, and the one thought most likely to join the peace process in Egypt's footsteps — provided terms were right.

"The murder of Sadat was a tricky business for us," one Jordanian official mused shortly afterwards. "We had to show the conservative states that we were alarmed by the killing of an Arab brother by extremists, but we had to show the radicals that we understood what lay behind it. It's not easy walking a tightrope."

Walking a tightrope is something King Hussein has been doing for the 28 years of his reign, however, and he is adept at it. As his recent trip to Washington underlined, the King is on good terms with the United States. But he is also capable of playing the Russian card, as he did recently by buying \$200m worth of Soviet arms, including Sam 7 missiles.

Jordan's position on regional problems is equally ambivalent and flexible. Since the defeat of the Labour Party in the Israeli general election, talk of a "Jordanian option" has died away. For the time being, at least, King Hussein is willing to let Saudi Arabia occupy the foreground, and to see what comes of the eight-point plan for peace put forward by Crown Prince Fahd in August. The Western powers clearly hope that the Fahd plan might provide a bridge between Camp David and attempts to bring the Palestine Liberation Organisation into the peace process, such as the European initiative. As long as such hopes are tentative, Jordan is content to lend moral support to the Saudis, while also showing a degree of sympathy for critics of the proposals, such as Syria. Perhaps surprisingly in view of Jordanian-Syrian tensions over the past year, Amman has sided with the Syrian view that the Soviet Union must be involved in peace-making.

Jordan will undoubtedly support Riyadh when the forthcoming Arab summit in Morocco, however, and if moves toward a comprehensive peace begin in earnest, the Jordanians will certainly

move back into the centre of the stage. This is partly because of King Hussein's standing, and his natural desire to play a leading role. But it is also because Jordan is crucial to any peace negotiations, by virtue of its geographical position. The key to any Palestinian settlement lies on the West Bank, and the key to the West Bank lies in Jordan, through Jordan's historical links with the region and through its present relationship with Israel.

It is partly this that lies behind the establishment of the PLO-Jordan Joint Committee, after a period in which the PLO was suspicious of such joint enterprises. Memories of Black September, when the PLO were hunted out of Jordan by King Hussein's "Bedouin" troops in 1971, are still bitter. The PLO leadership in Beirut and Damascus is also wary of what it sees as Jordanian manoeuvres to regain control of the West Bank and East Jerusalem on behalf of Jordan itself, rather than on behalf of the PLO, despite King Hussein's repeated acknowledgements of the PLO's claim to sovereignty over the occupied territories.

Israeli obstructions

Given these difficulties, the fact that the PLO-Jordan Committee functions at all is a positive sign. It disposes of funds provided by the oil-rich Arab states under allocations agreed at the Baghdad summit of 1978. Of the \$100m allocated, some \$70m has by now reached the joint committee. Problems have arisen however in the distribution of this money, largely due to obstruction on the Israeli side.

The funds are supposed to improve health, education, housing and other facilities for Palestinians living under Israeli rule — or as the PLO see it, "our brothers under occupation". The Israelis, however, have taken the view that such investment might

provide the infrastructure of a future Palestinian state on the West Bank, and make West Bankers beholden to the PLO.

The Israelis have deliberately established Jewish settlements, which now contain over 100,000 people and control approximately one third of the territories. More important, they control nearly all of the water resources. The Palestinian municipalities, by contrast, have been deprived of access to PLO-Jordan Committee funds, and are reduced to dependence on the Israeli contribution to their budgets.

The Israeli policy, it seems, is to fund the newly-created "village councils" instead. Although sponsored by Israel, the network of village councils is managed by a former Jordanian Minister, Mustafa Dudin, which makes it difficult for the Arab states to maintain that it is a totally Israeli creation.

This is clearly an embarrassment to the Jordanian authorities, and strains their relationship with the PLO further. The PLO, moreover, is angered by the fact that the Jordanians restrict PLO activities inside Jordan itself, and refuse to allow Palestinian guerrillas to operate from Jordanian soil. General Sharon, the Israeli Defence Minister, recently complained that Jordan was relaxing this policy, but in fact there have been very few cross-border incidents. The death of an Israeli soldier following an ambush in the Jordan Rift, three months ago, was the exception rather than the rule, and Palestinian activists refuse to report no-consent, tough treatment at the hands of the Jordanian security police.

One of the main problems King Hussein faces is that if the peace process does now gather pace, and the PLO is indeed brought in, tensions of the kind now kept under control could rise to the surface. How Jordan would coexist with a state in which the PLO played a dominant role is as intriguing a question



At home King Hussein rules over a stable, remarkably homogenous society. Here he is seen with President Reagan during his recent visit to Washington.

As how Israel would live alongside such a state. More than half of the Jordanian population is of Palestinian origin, and although many have Jordanian nationality, many may also retain their Palestinian identity. How many of these would transfer their loyalty to a West Bank state, and how would the distinction be maintained between such a state and Jordan?

The answer is probably that if King Hussein is able to rule a stable, remarkably homogenous society at the moment, he would continue to do so even with a Palestinian state next door. The Jordanian kingdom is held together by the Hashemite monarchy, which is universally respected. There is not even any serious groundswell of Muslim fundamentalist opinion to challenge the monarchy, and King Hussein — unlike the Egyptian leadership — has been successful in neutralising and even co-opting Muslim fundamentalists.

Syria argues that this is because of Jordan's protection of the Muslim Brother-

hood, which — according to Damascus — continues to mastermind its operations against the Assad regime from Jordanian soil. But a more profound explanation lies in the essential tolerance and stability of the system over which King Hussein presides, despite the lack of democratic institutions.

It is also an economically stable system, with comparatively low inflation and a high growth rate. In part, of course, this success is due to the flow of funds from the Arab oil — exporting nations, in accordance with the Baghdad allocations. But it is also due to highly skilled economic management, with Jordan's limited manpower and resources deployed with imagination and sound business sense.

Jordan's political support for Iraq in its war with Iran has also helped. Of the \$550m worth of goods exported by Jordan last year, a large proportion was accounted for by trade with Iraq, and the figures will be appreciably higher this year.

Richard Owen

Friendly neighbours pave the way to prosperity

It used to be said that the state of the Jordanian economy could be gauged by the number of shopkeepers sitting at their doorsteps drinking tea or playing backgammon. If there were many, it meant that business was slack. Today the shopkeepers are a lot busier and the state of the economy is reflected more accurately in the length of the queues in Amman's banks and money-changers' offices, the number of floodlit construction sites working round the clock, and the endless streams of heavy freight trucks plying the narrow highway to the Red Sea port of Aqaba.

Compared with the dramatic changes which have taken place over the past five years, Jordan's economic growth is no less impressive. For a country with no oil and few other natural resources — and deprived since 1967 of the important West Bank, now under Israeli occupation — it has been an uphill struggle to attain present levels of relative prosperity and economic stability.

The secret of Jordan's success has been skilful economic management combined with an almost uncanny ability to shelter the economy from the effects of the region's political turbulence. It has also proved better able than most other Arab states to integrate its economy with its neighbours, and thus benefit from the post-1973 economic boom in the Middle East.

In the period of the last five-year plan (1976-80) Jordan's real gross domestic product (gdp) increased at an average 8 to 9 per cent annually. This was slightly below targeted growth of almost 12 per cent annually, although in fact in 1980 the target was attained. The goal for the current five-year plan (1981-85) which has just been formally approved, is a slightly more moderate 9.3 per cent a year average growth of real gdp, and there is general confidence that this can be achieved.

Jordan's very respectable economic performance over the past 18 months is due partly to improved access to external resources in the form of grants and loans. Since its birth the country has been heavily dependent on foreign aid — for many years mainly from the United States

but more recently almost entirely from its wealthy Arab neighbours. Aid flows now amount to more than \$1,300m a year, helping to finance the high levels of investment spending demanded by the ambitious five-year plans.

A resolution adopted at the Baghdad Arab summit in 1978 committed the main Arab oil producers — notably Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE — to provide Jordan with \$1,200m a year for 10 years. Despite some early shortfalls these payments now seem to have been regularized, if intelligently spent — and there is every reason to believe this will be the case — the funds will enable Jordan to launch itself into self-sustained economic growth and thus ultimately diminish its dependence on outside aid.

Ironically perhaps, the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq has provided an additional external stimulus to the Jordanian economy. From the start of the fighting Jordan stood behind its Arab neighbour Iraq. As a result it has benefited from further Iraqi aid to the tune of \$400m since September, 1980. Some of this is used to specific projects considered to be of mutual benefit, especially road-building programmes.

Paying for improvements

The closure of Iraq's Gulf ports as a result of the fighting has made it heavily dependent on imports through the Red Sea port of Aqaba which are then carried overland through Jordan. So Iraq is paying for some of the badly-needed improvements being made to the long desert highway which links Aqaba with the Iraqi frontier. Indeed the transit trade through Jordan has become so important that a special organisation the Iraqi-Jordanian Overland Transport Company — was created to cater to this traffic.

The inflow of remittances from Jordanians working abroad — mainly in the Gulf oil-exporting countries — has traditionally been one of the country's most important and most reliable sources of foreign exchange. Officially these remittances are valued at about \$640m last year. But in fact the figures are based solely on funds transferred through the banking system and are thus considered to be gross underestimates.

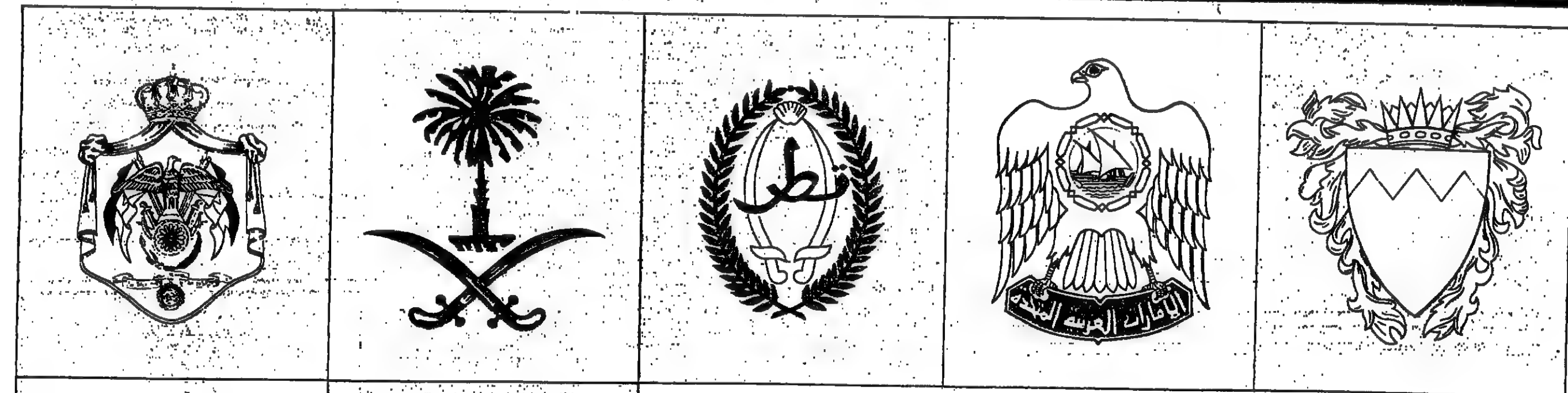
These various inflows of foreign exchange mean that despite a chronic deficit on its balance of trade — more than \$1,800m in 1980 — Jordan has for the past four years enjoyed an overall balance of payments surplus. This amounted to more than \$350m in 1980, and has allowed a healthy build-up of the country's international reserves. At the end of last year these stood at \$1,800m, representing the value of 10 months' worth of imports. For a country so dependent on foreign aid, and in such a turbulent part of the world, reserves on such a scale are essential to absorb the effects of any possible "kink" in the flow of funds.

Even Jordan's trade performance is beginning to look a little healthier. Although the absolute size of the trade gap will probably continue to widen into the foreseeable future, exports are actually growing faster than imports. Last year they registered a 37 per cent increase over 1979 with a total value of about \$550m. Phosphates accounted for a third of these exports, and their share will continue to rise. The same goes for exports of potash when the \$450m Dead Sea project becomes fully productive.

It is surprising that for a country usually thought of as a source of skilled manpower, manpower shortages are now becoming a serious constraint on development. The presence outside the country of about 400,000 Jordanians and Palestinian workers is in fact a mixed blessing. On the one hand their remittances have helped to sustain economic growth. But increasingly their absence has caused bottlenecks in a full-employment economy which may need its workers more than it needs the money they send home.

What Jordan has been able to prove is that careful planning and the efficient use of limited resources can offset the constraints of a small domestic economy, and large oil import bills. In fact Jordan has now begun to earnestly exploring for oil in the north-eastern desert. It is found — even if only in quantities sufficient for domestic needs — Jordan could overnight become not only economically successful, but also self-sufficient. But even without oil, Jordan's political and economic stability are the envy of many of its neighbours.

John Rizq



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Communications

Towards the
crossroads
of Middle East

Since the outbreak of war in Lebanon in 1975-76, Jordan has been able to take over part of Beirut's historic role as a regional centre of commerce, transport and communications. Perhaps it cannot yet claim to be the crossroads of the Middle East — as Beirut once certainly was — but it has assumed considerable importance as a focal point for air, land and sea transport. It has also acquired some standing as a rival regional base for international companies, governmental bodies and financial institutions.

But while Jordan's political stability made it an attractive alternative to turbulent Lebanon, it had little to offer other than a central location and a wealth of skilled manpower. Thus it had to very quickly set up an infrastructure appropriate to its new image as a Middle East commercial centre. Road networks were only beginning to be developed, ports and airports were primitive, and telecommunications were inadequate.

The difficulties were compounded by the fact that until the 1967 occupation by Israel of the West Bank Jordan's transport and communications were geared to an east-west network linking Amman and Jerusalem, which were then the dual centres of business activity. The abrupt truncation of the country meant that development strategies might have to be rethought in terms of a north-south axis stretching from Irbid and Amman to Aqaba port.

The pace of activity in the country today — especially in air and overland transportation — indicates the success with which Jordan has been able to capitalize on its location and to provide the services needed to form a link between the West and the Gulf Arab States.

Much effort has been devoted to improving the road network, especially in and around Amman, to make Jordan a more efficient and feasible transit route for traffic from Aqaba on the Red Sea, and from Mediterranean ports in Lebanon and Syria, overland to Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. The geographical setting of Amman —

perched on seven hills, with a bowl-like city centre in the middle — makes it a road builder's nightmare. To relieve congestion in the city's narrow streets, and to keep heavy through-traffic out of the capital, an impressive system of ring roads, flyovers and underpasses is being completed. This will eventually grow to become a comprehensive network of domestic and international highways linking the Saudi, Syrian and Iraqi frontiers and the port of Aqaba with the country's main centres of commerce, industry and mining, such as the new Sahab industrial estate, the phosphate mines of Russeifa, and of course Amman itself.

The most vital project within this overall transport strategy is the improvement of the principal trunk route linking Aqaba in the south with the Iraqi frontier in the north-east, and passing by Maan, Amman, Zarqa and Araq. About 1,000 trucks a day roll down this road to Aqaba, many carrying illegally heavy loads. This results in very heavy wear and tear and congestion, especially since most of the route is two-lane.

Most reliable
route

The importance of the route has increased dramatically since the start of the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq in September 1980. With its own ports of Basra and Umm Qasr exposed to Iranian bombing, Iraq became dependent on imports through the Mediterranean and Red Sea coming overland across Jordan, Syria or Lebanon. The Aqaba route has proved to be the most reliable in the light of the warm political and economic relations between Baghdad and Amman, compared with Iraq's often strained relations with the rival Baathist regime in Damascus.

Big contracts were awarded earlier this year to Yugoslav, Taiwanese and Saudi companies for work on sections of the Aqaba-Iraq route. By 1986 this important road will have been enlarged to a four-lane highway along its entire length, complete with limited access interchanges at major



A solar telephone on the King's Highway

junctions. The total cost is expected to exceed \$150m.

As well as these road improvements, there are plans to upgrade Aqaba port itself. Bids are being appraised for the building of a special container terminal, slightly to the south of the existing port, and contracts are expected to be awarded soon. Congestion at the port has been causing some concern, with queues of over 100 vessels seen earlier this year. Most of the problem stemmed from lack of storage and transport facilities, rather than the efficiency of the port itself, and conditions improved as more trucks became available to carry goods out of the port quickly.

Over half of the 6 million tonnes of cargo that the port will handle this year is destined for Iraq — an indication of the pressure being put on Jordan's infrastructure by the exigencies of the Gulf war. But with the hardship have come hefty injections of capital — many of the present road improvement schemes are being supported by Iraqi finance.

Perhaps Jordan's most visible contribution to the Middle East transport network has been in the field of civil aviation. Much of the credit for this can be claimed by Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, which has risen from almost total obscurity to being one of the most competitive airlines in the Middle East, if not in the world. At present some 1,500,000 passengers a year pass through Amman airport, which is acknowledged as an important stopping point for international airline flights from Europe and North America onwards to the Gulf and Far East.

The new Queen Alia International Airport, due to be opened next year, is designed eventually to handle 6.8 million passengers and 425,000 tonnes of cargo a year. Built at a cost of \$300m it is seen as a necessary investment if the country is to maintain its standing in commercial air travel, and to attract more tourists to the country. Already the airport's distinctively styled aircraft

maintenance hangar has been awarded the European Award Scheme's 1981 first prize for "outstanding steel structures".

The airport, 40km south of Amman and linked by its own highway to the capital has two parallel 3,660-metre runways with twin terminal buildings needed between them. The terminals cover 65,000 square metres, roughly eight times the terminal in the existing airport. The principle contractor for the airport is a joint venture between a local firm, General Enterprises Company (Geneco) and Laidlaw Projects of Britain. The contract for communications and navigational aids was awarded to Britain's Cable & Wireless.

The completion of the airport should help underline Jordan's pivotal role in the economics of the area. It is not a role that has come easily or cheaply, but one that is already highly valued by its neighbours.

John Rizq

Tourism

Getting the taste of
desert hospitality

Visitors return to Jordan. That is the best of all recommendations as any hotel or restaurant knows the world over. They come back because they like it. Why?

Jordan in its own arid dramatic way is strikingly beautiful. So are many other countries.

It has a long and remarkable history and rich legacies from that history in the form of archaeology and culture. Here it belongs to a small group of countries which are similarly endowed. It is possible but not unique.

Its people have a gift for friendship. This is the secret of Jordan for the perceptive traveller. Its nationalities are both Palestinian and Beduin: the people of the bedouin Israeli-occupied West Bank of the river Jordan and the originally nomadic desert dwellers from the east who share a love of their country, an interest in other peoples, and the Arab-Islamic tradition of hospitality. That last is not a matter of careless friendliness but a personal privilege and responsibility.

Distances to some extent control sightseeing. Because Jordan is small all the most interesting places can be visited in a few days. One week, wisely planned, will provide a really comprehensive and enjoyable holiday — and probably enough insight to make the visitor want to stay three months and become involved in the country's life.

Although it is worthwhile to stay at the rest houses in the Aqaba oasis or at Petra — it is quite possible to see the whole country in a week, at the two main centres which are equipped with hotels of all categories: Amman for all the north and central parts of the country, Aqaba for the south. Aqaba's area has the most spectacular places: the red rock-cut city of Petra, the wild desert mountains of the Wadi Rum region, and of course the coral beds of the Gulf of Aqaba. It is a good place to relax too, with swimming and more advanced water sports. Many of the tour operators include a few days at Aqaba at the end of a holiday.

Amman itself has history going back to the biblical days of the Ammonites, a fine Roman theatre, museums, colourful souks for the shopper but mainly it is the centre of Jordan's modern life and administration.

Amman contains the residence of King Hussein, his brother Crown Prince Hassan and other members of the Royal Family who live and work so closely with their people. It is the hub of the living, growing entity which is Jordan, and no visitor can afford to miss it.

Golden Jerash, the wonderful Roman city in the hills of Gilead, is only 40 minutes drive from the capital. The strange, sullen, salt waters of the Dead Sea are within easy reach. There is the other Roman city at Umm Qais — the Gadara of the New Testament — in the north, the great oasis of Azraq to the east, and south-east a series of eighth-century Arab castles, while southwards by the ancient King's Highway through the mountains of Mount Madaba, Mount Nebo from which Moses saw the Promised Land, and the great crusader castle at Karak. All are day excursions from Amman by car and coach, or Land-Rover in the case of the more remote desert castles.

Important in
two ways

That is Jordan as the tourist, the traveller, the business visitor finds it. The other side of the picture is what these visitors mean to Jordan. Tourism as a comprehensive term is vitally important in two ways: as a money-earning industry and as a means of increasing international experience, and understanding of the Arab world in general and Jordan in particular.

For both reasons King Hussein and his ministers and administration have given high priority to tourism from the early days of his reign and a substantial degree of success has been achieved despite several devastating setbacks caused by Middle East political events.

Twenty years ago Jordan had the holy places of old Jerusalem and the West Bank, and tourism was focused on these.

Since the 1967 war all of them have remained under Israeli occupation. In 1966 its tourist total was 517,000. After the 1967 war the figure dropped drastically, built up slowly to 707,600 in 1975, topped the million mark in

1976, and in year totalled 1,635,614.

More important still, in the import-export trade balances tourism is the one area where receipts exceed expenditure, and have done so annually from 1975. In 1980 tourist receipts were JD 160m, against expenditure of JD 105m.

This is the stuff of steady work. Hotel bed capacity (in varying grades) has been built up to 6,700 with a number of additional hotel and hotel extensions coming into service during the current year and in early 1982. Rest houses have been built and improved. Alia, the national airline has extended its network over the years, and developed good relations with tour operators in key tourist-exporting areas — the United States of America and European countries. Government work has proceeded in close cooperation with the private sector.

Most visitors still come from other Arab states — in 1980 77.75 per cent, but an important 14.37 per cent were from Europe and America and this market has apparently become rather too successful in the eyes of Israel.

Many tourists — said to be some 67,000 a year — have been coming to Jordan, entering the occupied West Bank and Israel for a Holy Land tour and then returning to Jordan to finish the holiday and fly home.

On October 1 Israel stopped such re-entry to Jordan. It seems to be tacitly acknowledged that this is because of the air transport factor which directly provides revenue for Jordan, rather than for strictly political reasons.

It is already having a serious effect on Jordan's travel market, and is openly admitted as the reason why Alia has discontinued its services to Chicago and Houston, leaving New York as its only United States destination.

Package holidays which combine Jordan with the Holy Land will now have to fly into Amman and return from Israel, a very different economic proposition from the use of charter or scheduled services on one route. There are, however, package holidays combining Jordan with both Syria and Egypt.

Penelope Turing

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THE ARTS

Television

Game to the last

Gary Glitter did not so much capture audiences as mug them, stumping, then singing and rock around them in camp costumes to rob them of the will to resist. His problem for some years has been that he can no longer get enough people near enough to do it, but he is still trying. Such conviction and technique are what the circus-owner Gary Glitter thought would make his big top seem too small again. So in came Glitter, work-willing as ever, to tread the trampoline, be hoisted about by cable, do his thing with a difference, and glitter.

A fortnight of rehearsal and the rocky circus was on the road. Forty minutes went with them and presented their report on BBC 2 last night. It was tight, gripping and rather moving. The producer, Jack Pizzey, maintained the pace of this documentary series well, but for Messrs Glitter and Cottle this would be scant comfort. Once again it was proved that all that glitters is not gold. The circus, booked ahead for 30 towns, lost too much too soon and retired hurt to winter quarters in record time.

No doubt the circus will emerge again, for it is clear that those people have stamina. Mr Glitter has, too. I reckon they will survive separately.

Survivors and what to do about them was the subject of Thames's TV Eye, which peering at senior policemen and local government officers taking part in a war game at the Home Defence College, Easingwold, Yorkshire, a kind of nuclear management course with simulated fallout.

These four-day courses are held for 11 months of the year for those local authorities who accept an assumption that anyone might survive and consider planning for such an eventuality worthwhile. At such a speed it will take some time to reach a state of preparedness for the admittedly unpredictable but Mr Brezhnev or whoever may wait till we have padded up before bowing an over.

The players are bombarded with a series of difficulties concerning unburied dead, shortage of food, armed raids on food stores and civil riots. They make their dispositions which are then assessed. Operation Hot Seat, it was called, and the players, after preliminary lectures, got down to it on hard chairs where the seriousness of the exercise would make itself felt.

They were engrossed but not perspiring and some, I noted, continued smoking. Why not? I was puffing pretty hard, too.

On BBC1 we went behind the Scenes with John Wells, who told us how his writing and acting, currently in *Who's for Dennis?*, had enabled him to get his propensities together. Mr Wells's accomplishments were quoted as schoolmastering, acting, novels, essays, translation and playwriting, difficult to encapsulate in 30 minutes, and the fact it proved impossible but it was funny in parts.

Dennis Hackett

Rock

Tito Puente

The Venue

Salsa, the hot dance music played mostly by Cuban and Puerto Rican expatriates in the United States, is being touted as the next flavour to join the great bouillabaisse of rock and roll. London sounds like Cayenne and Blue Room, a la Turke use it in the way that rhythm and blues, reggae and funk were annexed by their predecessors, as a reference point which confers style, exclusivity and a danceable beat.

Tito Puente, a timbalero of great experience and reputation within the Latin music community, is not quite salsa's first ambassador to Britain: half-a-dozen years ago, unsuccessful attempts to establish a beachhead were made by Hector Lavoe's orchestra and by the Fania All-Stars. In the current climate, however, Puente was welcomed by an expectant crowd made up equally of delighted Latinos and worried fashion-mongers.

Confusingly for some, Puente hardly plays salsa at all. His seven-piece band, with its flautist and its violinist, is a variation of the supplier, gentler charanga music, although his choice of textures (deep flute, strident electronic violin) is a conscious attempt to modernise the idiom by adding a tougher edge. Unfortunately,

he also relieves charanga of much of its charm: the montuno sections, in which a soloist plays over hypnotic gas-sawing chords, lose their essential easy sway, becoming instead vehicles for virtuosity.

The percussion work was, of course, remarkable. Puente and his conga-player, Carlos "Potato" Valdes, enjoy a complex relationship, and the interplay of their poly-rhythms was at times delightful. No less rhythmically acute was the work of the pianist, Jorge Dalbo, who supplied the bright, crabwise figures so characteristic of Latin piano.

In the end, though, the music's intrinsic blandness spoke of too many compromises. A younger, bolder band might have made better messengers.

Tres, a Latin band from London, opened the show and made a case for their opportunity with an eclectic mix of some skill and much promise. Too close at times to the clichéd Latin-rock fusions of Santana and Malo, they nevertheless used their front-line of soprano saxophone and trombone with imagination, and kept the beat flowing. It is difficult to believe, however, that British dancers will ever adjust themselves en masse to the sensuous click of the clave rhythm. British hips simply are not built like that.

Richard Williams

Theatre

Wedding Belles

Glasgow Theatre Club

Scottish playwrights are regularly looking for a home and complaining that they can find none in Glasgow. With the appearance of the Glasgow Theatre Club, in a bar and restaurant complex called the Tron, they may have found one. Marcella Evaristi is a Glaswegian, half Italian, half Roman Catholic, of Italian descent and fundamentally a feminist. She is very much a Scottish playwright and is well on the way to becoming an important one. Her latest play can only help build the Tron's reputation as a theatre.

Wedding Belles and *Green Grasses* to give the play its full title, takes the lives of three women from childhood through the ravages of marriage. It begins all in innocence, with three actresses

pretending to be children playing in a park. The two older girls are at the stage where they will exchange their boudoirs for the knowledge, giving each other clues to the mysteries of becoming women, and beginning to take seriously the games of marriage and divination. "Rich man, beggar man, tinker or thief?"

The mere inkling of sex and sin reduces that scene to tears, and then the girls are in full trauma of adolescence, measuring out, through guesses, the points that sexual experience can earn on a scale of a hundred. Ten is for loss, 20 for a French kiss, 30 is all the way and Janice Laurie is adamant that 100 is impossible.

Certainly, by the time the girls are about 100 years old, it is impossible, blocked by jealousy, unfaithful men, even unfaithful sisters, and Miss Evaristi's characters are playing disappointed roles that

have been determined for them by the letters pages in women's magazines. What lifts them thoroughly above the boards of the ordinary is the way in which she views their lives as something complete, with cultural, religious and family forces always evident in her writing.

There is no raging optimism in the play, but the sadness of it is balanced by a determination to survive and by cracking, thoughtful comedy. Miss Evaristi's observant lines find rich expression in Tim Fywell's production from the Traverse Theatre. Simply staged, with only changes of costume to carry the women forward in their lives, the deepening implications of the childhood games are given force by the finely detailed performances of Miss Laurie, Sarah Collier and Valerie Fyfe. In the fullness of their lives as women, they evoke the girls they were.

Ned Chaillet

Robyn Archer in "A Pack of Women": Brecht as well as blues singer

Welcome fringe addition

A Pack of Women

Drill Hall

Three is not much of a pack, but the tide of this feminist revue begins making more sense when you see the trio (Margo Ransom, Jane Wood and the powerful Australian, Robyn Archer) dealing the cards to the refrain "How do you stick at a game when the rules keep changing?"

This is a loose anthology show, reflecting all kinds of attitudes, past and present, and held together only by the metaphor that, either through patience, old maid, poker or some game yet to be devised, women deserve a new deal. It takes rather a long time to get

going, owing to the unhappy idea of stating a point didactically and following it up with a number on the same theme. "William was working all the morning, I shelled peas" confides the uncomplicated Dorothy Wordsworth, only to be blown off-stage by Miss Wood's wife of Ken "Roll Star" - Rosa Luxemburg, Marie Curie, and Alexandra Kollontai are other ladies with strong things to say, but the sense of female solidarity only takes possession of the house during a bluesy "Menstruation Blues" with a powerful saxophone riff from Rita Kutchy.

That piece is the work of Miss Archer, who dominates the evening as a Brecht as

Cinema

The contrasting crafts of horror



Sentimental fantasy: Paul Le Mat and chimp in "Citizens Band"

An American Werewolf in London (X)
Odeon, Leicester Sq.

Wolfen (X)
Warner West End

Citizens' Band (AA)
Paris Pullman

Marilyn, the Untold Story (A)
Classic, Oxford St.;
Scene, Leicester Sq.;
Odeon, Kensington

The War at Home
I.C.A.

Montenegro, or Pigs and Pearls (X)

Selected Classics,
Screen on the Green

John Landis directed *National Lampoon's Animal House*, which was awful in the intended style of a student's rag magazine, and *The Blues Brothers*, which was just awful. An American Werewolf in London is a horror film that shows a marked advance. Its special quality is to maintain a light sense of parody, a comic distance from the conventions of the genre, and at the same time to give the story the serious weight and conviction of real characters and feelings, palpably real settings and real shocks of terror.

Landis's hero David (David Naughton) and his buddy are young Americans (recent graduates no doubt from *Animal House*) hiking on the Yorkshire moors. They chance upon a pub called The Slaughtered Lamb, whose Cold Comfort matches its name. The dark hints of something nasty under the full moon are quickly fulfilled; and David, the survivor, wakes up in hospital in London, all covered in claw marks.

While police and doctors suggest rational explanations, David learns the truth from his deceased friend now in the guise of the Walkie Dead and getting dead and more puerile with every spectral social call. Thereafter Landis builds up real paths in the horror experienced by this funny, extrovert, affectionate young man in realizing that by night he is transformed into a ravening werewolf, ranging the streets of London.

There is a tribute to Val Lewton's *Cat People*, as well as an echo of Ken Russell's *Altered States*, in the scene where, still unaware, David

wakes up to find himself in Regent's Park Zoo, stark naked and curiously observed by the wolves in whose cage he has found refuge; and a classic Beauty and the Beast moment where the werewolf is momentarily torn between the killing instinct and his love for the girl who tries to the end to save him.

Landis effectively uses contrast: romantic juxtaposition of the nightmares of physical deformation and puerile perfection with frequent images of the naked David; constant alternation of pathos, horror and broad comedy (like David's plight in getting from Regent's Park to W2 with no clothes); above all in the siting of this extreme fantasy in the most familiar locations. The werewolf roams the Central Line, Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly. The Jekyll-into-Hyde metamorphoses (engineered with awful conviction, by Rick Baker) take place in the plainest of Paddington pads, in the Brox Cinema, Piccadilly, with a dim soft-focus movie rambling on the white on the screen. The climactic scene of mayhem in Piccadilly Circus, with cars and policemen's severed heads flying in all directions, is a small masterpiece in itself.

Meanwhile, in *Wolfen*, something hairy and savage is killing and dismembering New Yorkers, with only detective Albert Finney, looking strangely like some old Indian squaw, to defend the city. Michael Wadleigh's film is a great deal more pretentious and a great deal less effective than John Landis's. Its main problem is that its flimsy plot and slight idea (the notion of

a prehistoric order reasserting itself on the site of the decaying city is far too close for comfort to Peter Weir's *The Last Wave*) are fatally weighed down with technical effects.

Hardly a minute goes by without tricky electronic sounds or visuals; and for good measure Wadleigh fills the film with red-herring shocks and bizarre camera angles. As a bonus, he is inclined to make his actors speak their lines through mouthfuls of filled rolls. This excess of fancy work has already begun to pall even by the first showy five minutes and three killings.

Jonathan Demme, like John Landis, brings a very superior talent and sentiment to the exploitation film. *Citizens' Band* was made just before his admirable *Melvin and Howard*, and has the same Remouresque generosity and faith that "tout le monde a ses raisons".

The film is a sentimental fantasy about a small mid-west community, with the premise that citizens' band radio, the universal craze, gives people the opportunity to adopt new and more fulfilling secret personalities. "Everybody in this town" reflects the hero Blaine (Paul Le Mat, who was Melvin in *Melvin and Howard*, and has messy hair, a Huck Finn look and wonderful innocence) "is being someone they oughtn't to be".

Demme indulges the audience with a Capraesque finale of idealistic optimism. Blaine's efforts and a real-life emergency bring the community back to reality and mutual support. Demme's overflowing innate kindness,

affection, faith and humour obliges you to share his optimism and belief in all his gallery of larger-than-life characters.

In the case of Marilyn, the Untold Story, the Trade Descriptions Act should perhaps be invoked, since the story has been told so many times before, and never more profitably than by Norman Mailer, on whose book the film is based. The film was made for television, and has been cut down to a convenient theatrical length of two hours. This kind of biopic, dutifully rather than imaginatively recreating the climactic moments of the subject's life and casting look-alikes (or, more often, look-rather-better-thans) has become the peculiar preserve of American television.

Marilyn is played by Catherine Hicks, who gets the voice and the flakey anxiety right, but misses the air of invulnerable innocence that gave the special quality to Marilyn's devastating *dica*. For the other people, dead or living, in Marilyn's life, the impersonations accorded them are a matter of luck.

As historical commentary, *The War at Home* outdoes *The Deer Hunter* or *Apocalypse Now* in impact. Focusing on events of ten years in Madison, Wisconsin, and its campus — "the Athens of the West" — it is a compilation of documents on the escalation of hostility to the war in Vietnam, to a point near civil conflict. There are frighteningly close film records of the police beatings which for many proved the most vivid sort of political enlightenment; and official film of Nixon, Johnson and the

politicians, bringing to the nation, with saintly sincerity, messages which the hindsight of history has shown to be lies. The directors, Glenn Silber and Barry Alexander Brown, do not conceal their own sympathies; but their record of this strange decade in American history is sober, exactly documented, and undeniable.

Dusan Makavejev came to prominence with a series of brilliant films, culminating in the outrageous application of Reichian principles to modern political history, *W.R. Mysteries of the Orgasm*. In the ten years since departing from his native Yugoslavia, where *W.R.* caused an understandable commotion, he has until now succeeded in completing only one film, *Sweet Movie*, made seven years ago on Canada.

His new film, *Montenegro*, shows him happily unrepentant, if very slightly reloaded, in his plea for liberation of the spirit. It is dedicated to "the new invisible nation of Europe" — eleven million immigrants and guest workers who move north to exploit rich and prosperous people, bringing with them their filthy habits, bad manners and a smell of garlic.

Susan Anspach plays the bored and frustrated American wife of a Swedish businessman, who has the luck to fall in with a gang of untamed Serbian immigrants. There is no turning back from the new, uninhibited way of life they reveal to her. The old Makavejev, mixture of anarchy, irony, farce, eroticism and cheerful death is uncompromised.

David Robinson

Concerts

Orff laid bare

Collegium Musicum of London

Queen Elizabeth Hall

I used to think that *Carmine Burana* was the mass-production version of Stravinsky's *Wedding* but now I know better. On Wednesday the Collegium Musicum chose to present it in Orff's alternative instrumentation for piano and percussion, which should have brought out any connexion with the similarly scored Stravinsky ballet. In the event, though, we just heard how deaf this monster is to all the qualities that make its prototype interesting: the pull between repetition and exception, comedy and solemnity, individual and crowd, voice and instrument, sacred and profane.

One had to sympathize with the attempts of Howard Shelley and Hilary Macnamara to phrase the most banal piano ideas beautifully, and of the soloists, especially Richard Jackson, to find some freshness and life in their contributions. One had to admire, too, the alacrity and heaven help us, enthusiasm of the Collegium Musicum under Laszlo Heltay, but this was not a pleasant experience.

Gordon Crosse's *Dramm-cannon I*, given its first performance here, was expressly designed to contrast with the Orff, though I could have done with something a good deal more dissimilar still. Even if it happily lacked the unbearably jolly impetus of its companion piece, instead drifting in clouds of canonic inference, the new piece hardly strove for sophistication. Rather, it was a long, slow meditation on utterance of Kathleen Raine's, a vision of infinity that might well gain from being crystallized out of its dream.

Paul Griffiths

RPO/Groves

Festival Hall

However irritated one may be by the neglect of American music, the best of it does sound fairly strange in European concert venues. Roy Harris's *Symphony No. 3* conveys an impression of wide, far distances, of lands as yet unspoiled by the detritus of man that made the Festival Hall seem too small on Wednesday. The orchestra was the Royal Philharmonic, the conductor Sir Charles Groves, and they shaped the initial long cello melody, out of which the whole work grows, very well, though taking it just a little fast.

They were responsive, also, to the extreme plasticity of Harris's phrases, the fluidity of his harmonic rhythm. The four linked sections which underlie the structure were clearly defined without any loss of linear momentum, and even if the character of this great composition was not fully delineated, the rough vigour of the wide-spaced fugal passages was finely communicated.

There was, on the contrary, a certain lack of form in the opening tutti of Brahms's *Piano Concerto No. 1*. The threads were pulled together with remarkable quickness, though, by Claudio Arrau in his opening statement, and this seemed into an excellent performance.

It is a particularly good piece to display the variety as well as the richness of the soloist's tone, and to match this there was some beautiful playing in the orchestra — from the first oboe, for example. Mr Arrau's most characteristic moments, however, came in the delicately spun slow movement, one of Brahms's most revealing early statements.

Max Harrison

Detective work by the cellist Julian Lloyd Webber has unearthed an "unknown" Haydn concerto, which he will perform with the London Mozart Players under Harry Blech at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on November 25.

According to scholars, Joseph Haydn wrote six cello concertos, of which only two are familiar, and even one of those, in C major, was discovered as recently as the 1960s. Three are still missing, presumed lost for ever, leaving one in D major, rumoured to have survived in manuscript.

Music in America

British Pittsburgh

A British festival, led by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, has just opened in this Allegheny steel town with a series of speeches from the British ambassador and Mr H. J. Heinz II, the archetypal benefactor, and with a small but vocal demonstration by the Irish. It rained on the Irish.

The first orchestral programme conceived by Vaughan Williams, Walton and Tippett. An exhibition of British naïf painting has opened at the Carnegie-Mellon University and one of graphics and constructions by Joe Tilson at a downtown gallery. In addition local dramatic and operatic societies are presenting works by Gilbert and Sullivan, Pinter and Goldsmith. The William Penn Hotel is serving Devonshire cream, and Froggy's — a local pub — is selling British beer.

Mostly, however, it will be British music that dominates the festival. The orchestra is playing under the direction of André Previn, whose understanding of and affection for English music has made him a sensitive interpreter and staunch advocate.

The project began when the British Council started planning a tour by a London orchestra to play English music in New York and Washington. When the cut-back in public spending hit the tour was cancelled. André Previn and the managing director of the Pittsburgh Symphony had the idea that they could do the festival tour at a good deal lower cost, and the M.D., Mr Marshall Turkin, went to London to sell the idea to the council.

The council offered a grant of \$65,000, and Mr Turkin set about raising additional cash from British corporations and from American corporations with roots in Britain. So far, an additional \$150,000 has come in.

The first concert was well enough received. Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia* on a Theme by Thomas Tallis got the occasion off to a solemn start and was followed by a ravishingly languorous interpretation of Walton's *The Concerto for Two Novels*. Wha Chung, producing an appropriately warm Mediterranean tone. But Tippett's *Triple Concerto*, for violin, viola and cello, written last year, and with the orchestra's three principals as soloists, got a very cool response from the audience.

The new British music on display is to include Oliver Knussen's third symphony. "Knussen will make Tippett sound like two Novels," threatened Mr Previn. The other composers will include Elgar, Britten and McCabe. The orchestra will then take its programme to Carnegie Hall, New York, and to the Kennedy Centre, Washington.

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, which plays in a magnificent auditorium, once an elaborate cinema but now lavishly converted as the Howard Heinz Hall for the Performing Arts, enjoys the largest endowment of any musical organization in America. It was not always so, for after foundation in 1894 the orchestra faltered financially and closed down for 16 years. The Pittsburgh steel barons were reported as considering that symphony orchestras produced only expensive noise.

After its rebirth it was brought up to international standards by Fritz Reiner, who was succeeded by William Steinberg. Mr Previn took the musical direction over in 1976, while he was still principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra. He moved the orchestra into the television age with his widely acclaimed "Previn and the Pittsburgh" series. "People say that it has a European sound," he says, "but I have no idea what they mean by that."

Michael Hamlyn

Grand Masters!

The idea of 'big government' probably still attracts more emotional hostility than measured consideration. Richard Rose this week examines the political bogey which has occupied historians and public figures from the American Civil War onwards to the Devolution debates of the 1960s and 1970s.

* Peter Abbs on autobiography and education

* Special feature on Maths and Physics books



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Business News

THE TIMES Friday November 13 1981

BL and Honda share names for new model

From Peter Haseelhurst in Tokyo and Edward Townsend in London

The car to be manufactured jointly by BL and Honda in the late 1980s—initial agreement on it was announced in Tokyo yesterday—will be an 1800cc model pitched in the market just below BL's Rover saloon range.

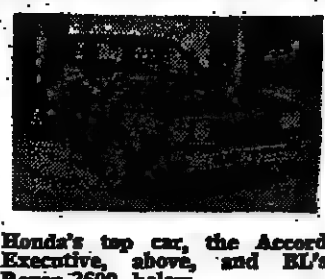
Design and development of the car, code-named Project X2, has yet to start, but sophisticated and final economy will be key elements.

The car will be built simultaneously in Britain and Japan and sold through the companies' existing dealers. For a relatively low investment, BL will get a car complementary to the Rover, but not encroaching on the Jaguar luxury sector, and Honda will add a badly needed executive-class model to its range.

Top of the Honda fleet at present is a luxury version of the 1900cc Accord, which sells in Britain for £26,400.

Mr Raymond Horrocks, chairman of BL Cars, said in Tokyo that the venture would be one of the most significant influences on the motor industry in the late 1980s and 1990s. He was confident that the British unions would support the project because it would protect as many as 2,000 BL jobs and many more in component manufacturers.

The car would be based on the design philosophy of BL's LC10 range of medium-sized saloon cars, the first of which is due to be launched in Britain early in 1983. Mr Horrocks added: "It will combine the very best of British and



Honda's top car, the Accord Executive, above, and BL's Rover 2600, below.

Japanese automotive skills and will be produced on their respective strengths in different parts of the world."

BL executives in Tokyo said that by combining financial and technical resources over the next few years, Honda and BL would establish a joint research and development programme that would "carry the industry into the 1990s."

Under the terms of the deal, still only at letter-of-intent stage, BL will make both its own and Honda's versions of the car in Britain then deliver them to the appropriate dealers. BL said the cars would be similar in design but each would have distinctive features.

Honda will do the same in Japan, thus providing BL with its own "home-produced" model for the Japanese market.

The cars will also be on sale throughout Europe and North America, where it is seen by the partners as a competitor for the Volkswagen Audi.

Of the proposal by Nissan, maker of Datsun cars, to establish a manufacturing base in Britain, Mr Horrocks said: "Our arrangement is a more secure way of securing jobs than any other arrangements."

The joint venture was different because it would not be set up by an investor from outside Britain. "This leaves all the options in the hands of British and Japanese nationals respectively."

British Ministers, particularly those in the Departments of Trade and Industry, are certain to approve the project, which fits neatly with the Government's hopes of increasing industrial collaboration between Britain and Japan, while promising a high domestic level of labour and components.

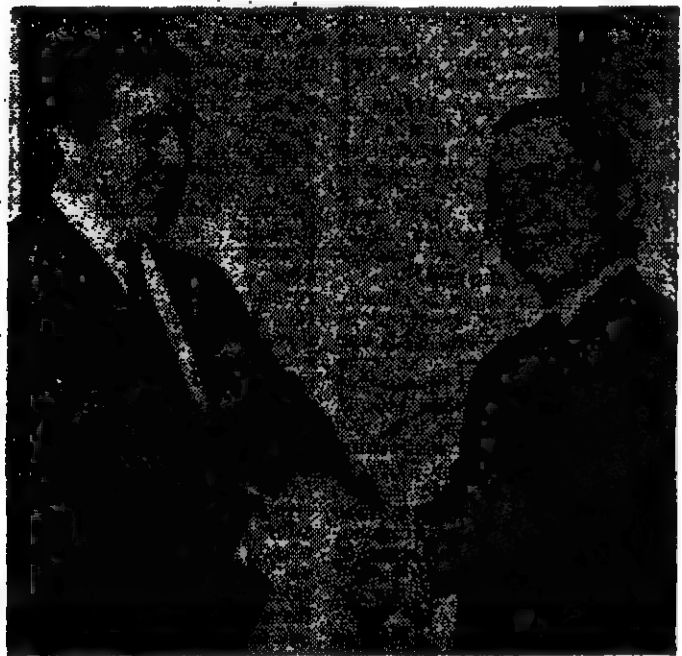
Whitehall officials have been told that the project will not involve more public money. BL still has to draw £200m of the £290m of state finance provided by the Government for this year and next.

Nine British MPs who toured a Japanese "car plant of the future" yesterday emerged with renewed optimism that the Nissan company will invest in a multimillion-pound manufacturing plant in Britain (Paul Routledge writes from Tokyo). The all-party delegation spent two hours seeing robots which have displaced hundreds of assembly-line workers at the factory near Tokyo, and they urged the firm to go ahead with its plan to invest in one of Britain's economically depressed areas.

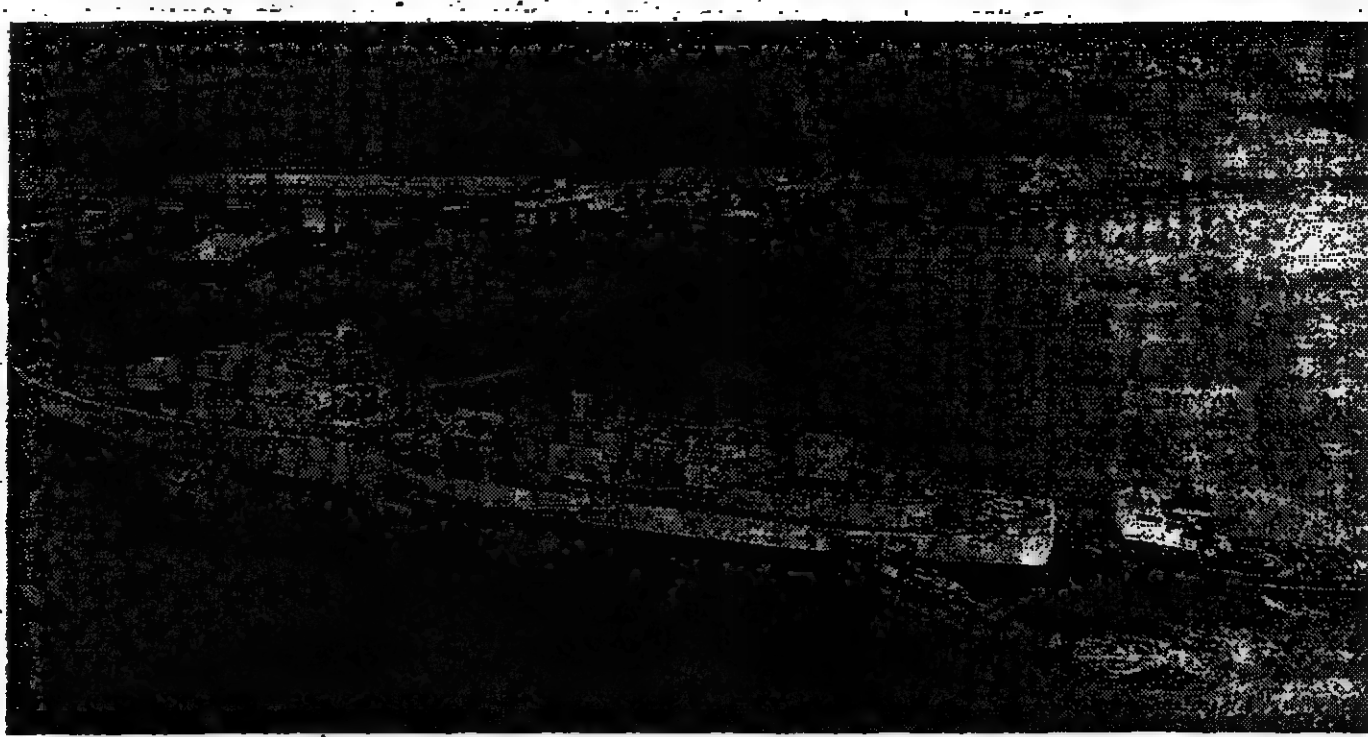
Mr Harold Walker, MP, a Labour front-bench spokesman on employment, said: "I am optimistic. In conversation with Ministers and senior government officials, we have emphasized the contribution this project could make towards redressing Britain's trade imbalance with Japan."

The MPs met Mr Keichi Kameo, executive vice-president of Nissan, who told them that a feasibility study team is now in Britain and will report back next month. He confirmed that an announcement would be made in the new year.

A final decision has yet to be taken by the Nissan board. Rivalry between the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, as to who would represent workers at the British plant, and problems over the cost and supply of components, are understood to be the chief reasons for delaying a verdict.



Smiles and handshakes: Mr Horrocks and Honda's Kiyoshi Kawakami announce agreement.



Scrap for Africa—from old Suez veteran

Suez veteran, HMS Diamond, the last of the Royal Navy's class of fleet destroyers, made its last voyage yesterday—under tow to Medway Secondary Metals, Gillingham, Kent, to be broken up for scrap metal. Scrap from the Diamond is likely to be sent to Africa, with which the ship has links, having been adopted by the De Beers diamond mining group.

Diamond was laid down at John Brown's Clydebank yard in 1949, launched in 1950 and completed in 1952.

The destroyer saw service in the Home and Mediterranean Fleets, was present at Suez in 1956 and cruised the world in Portsmouth in 1969 where she has been used as a naval training ship.

Few orders for civil engineers

By Kevin Phillips

Small and medium civil engineering companies are feeling the squeeze from a lack of orders, according to the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors' latest survey.

Order books have improved slightly since July, but more than half the firms polled continue to report fewer orders than six months ago. This implies localised or specialised improvement rather than a complete reversal of the trend.

There has been a marked increase in the number of invitations to submit tenders but the Federation reports an increased number of abortive tenders.

Contract values appear to have remained static with the market becoming fiercely competitive.

Unemployment has worsened with more than two-thirds of companies employing fewer operatives than a year ago.

PRIVATE AUDIT FOR COUNCILS

The Department of the Environment has appointed the first five of 14 private sector district auditors to English local authorities.

Opposition to bringing private auditors into the public sector has come from the majority of local authorities which have opted to continue to be audited by the district audit service. Only 27 local authorities in England and Wales out of more than 400 have agreed to private sector audit so far.

The five local authorities affected by the first appointments are: the Westminster City Council, London Borough of Kingston, Tyne and Wear Metropolitan Council, Durham District Council and Oldham Borough Council.

Living standards 'on the decline' UK lags in pay and perks league

By Rupert Morris

A continuing decline in real living standards in the United Kingdom, compared very unfavourably with most other countries, is forecast for 1982 by P.A. Management Consultants.

Overall, the survey shows that the United Kingdom is at the bottom of the pay and benefits league.

P.A.'s International Pay and Benefits survey, published yesterday, shows growing pressure, particularly in Europe, to limit or reduce fringe benefits, and to follow the United States' example in introducing more results-based incentives.

Social security costs, which vary widely from country to country, are seen to be increasing rather more slowly.

The United Kingdom survey shows average pay rises of between 8 and 11 per cent in 1981, compared with increases in living costs of 11 per cent. Next year is expected to leave people worse off with average pay increases of 6 to 7 per cent lagging well behind a forecasted cost of living increase of 9 per cent.

Of the other countries surveyed, the majority show pay

keeping more or less level with the cost of living. Only Spain, Korea, Thailand and Italy prefer pay lagging behind during 1982.

Employers' contributions towards social security vary from nothing in Finland—where the state bears the total cost—to more than 40 per cent of the basic wage in Italy and Sweden.

In Italy, where the employer's contribution is 40.08 per cent, state social security covers the provision of a state pension, national health scheme, state sick pay, unemployment pay, redundancy (for companies with more than 500 employees), and severance pay.

In the United Kingdom, the employer's contribution is 13.7

per cent. The survey of private benefits, which in Britain and the United States are coming increasingly under the taxman's scrutiny, seems to show that on a par with a top financial executive, whereas in Britain the secretary receives only half the benefits.

Company cars continue to be a popular perk in most countries, but British company cars tend to be smaller and cheaper.

Pressure for a reduced working week from unions in Britain and Australia has coincided with increased use of "flexi-time" in the United States where a 40-hour week is still the norm.

Overall, the survey indicates that, while countries like Spain and Belgium may be suffering at least as badly from recession, the United Kingdom is more or less bottom of the pay and benefits league.

The British Government might, however, be comforted by P.A.'s view that, in spite of possible union unrest this winter, settlements for manual workers in the private sector will not average more than 4 to 7 per cent.

Argyll withdraws from Linford bid

Argyll Foods has withdrawn its bid for Linford Holdings because of a referral to the Monopolies Commission announced on Tuesday.

The company which has made a small loss on its 25 per cent stake in Linford yesterday placed its holding of 13.27 million Linford shares at 15p, raising £20.7m, mainly by institutional shareholders.

The sale price compared with an average cost price of £2.30 a share. But this excluded financing costs and Mr David Webster, the director of Argyll said that in overall terms the group had made a small loss on its stake.

Argyll, the food manufacturing

and retailing group built its bid for Linford Holdings by a series of deals since 1976, launched a bid for Linford on October 9. Argyll was valued in the stock market at £37m while its takeover terms put a price of £91m on Linford. The bid came a fortnight after Argyll paid Guinness Peat £12.5m for a one-fifth stake in Linford.

Mr James Gulliver said yesterday that he was surprised the Office of Fair Trading thought there could be grounds whereby the merger would be against the public interest.

"An opportunity has now been lost to create an important new food distribution group which would have been able

progressively to compete with the major multiples and which was also committed to support and strengthen the independent sector."

Argyll decided to withdraw because of the uncertain outcome of a Monopolies Commission investigation and because of the cost in time and money.

The referral of the bid to the Monopolies Commission was announced by the Department of Trade on Tuesday, the first closing date and Argyll said it was disappointed as the level of acceptance received had left it confident of gaining control. The company is understood to have gained control of about 42 per cent of the shares including its 29.9 per cent stake.

France to end pay link with inflation

The French Government is proposing a new method of fixing wages in an attempt to bring the country's annual inflation rate of 14 per cent down to 10 per cent by the end of next year.

Wages would no longer be adjusted automatically every three months to take into account inflation of the previous period under proposals by Mr Jacques Delors the Finance Minister. Instead, new wage levels will be set at the beginning or in the middle of every quarter on the basis of expected price increases.

It is hoped to change the practice under which wages are automatically adjusted to earlier price increases thereby triggering off further increases leading to further wage rises.

Wage increases under the new system would reflect the declaration of prices planned by the Government and companies would know how high their wage bill would be during the next quarter. Industry is expected to respond to moderate wage rises with price restraint.

The Government claims that the proposals would not tamper with the free bargaining process of negotiations between unions and employers. However, on the parties' side, the introduction is expected to take into account the Government's inflation targets for the coming quarter, pressures can be exercised if their settlements ignore the targets.

Equally, the failure of companies to moderate price increases will not go unnoticed by the Government which is no longer willing to accept the laissez faire policies of the past.

It remains to be seen whether the unions will accept the new formula. In spite of assurances from the Government that wages would be adjusted if there was a fall in real purchasing power, unions are likely to see the new system as another form of incomes policy, especially when it is applied to the public sector.

£80m RIG ORDER FOR CLYDESIDE

By Clive Cookson

A £80m deep water rig, capable of drilling for oil and gas under 4,500 feet of ocean, is to be built at British Shipbuilders' Scott Lithgow yard on Clyde-side.

The British National Oil Corporation in partnership with the drilling contractor Ben Odeco, yesterday placed a letter of intent for the semi-submersible rig, to be named the Ben Odeco Ranger. It is due for completion at the beginning of 1984.

BNOC will use the rig to explore north and west of Shetland, where the water is too deep for conventional rigs.

The Ben Odeco Ranger order should ensure the future of the 5,000 jobs at Scott Lithgow for at least two more years. Clyde-side can expect more good news on Monday when the Corporation is likely to announce that Govan Shipbuilders has won a £30m order for two bulk carriers.

North Sea services, page 16

Exco issue 75 times oversubscribed

By Ronald Priden

Investors appear to have put up at least £150m in one of the most successful new issues on the London stock market. Application lists for the offer for sale of 14.5 million shares in Exco International, the holding company for two of London's leading money brokers, closed the statutory five minutes after they opened yesterday.

Barclays Bank's new issue department in London Wall was snowed under with applications from an estimated 40,000 eager investors, even though stock-brokers had been warning their

clients that, with Exco employees getting preferential treatment on special pink application forms, they stood little chance of getting shares.

N. M. Rothschild the merchant bank handling the issue said with a touch of understatement that the issue had been "heavily oversubscribed."

Best guesses in the market were that investors had offered at least 75 times more than the 20m for which Exco had been asked, and some estimates ranged as high as 100 times. Barclays had opened its doors

at 5 am for the large crowd of personal applicants with police outside and stewards inside to handle the throng. Helping Exco has been the recent Cable and Wireless offer for sale which left a number of investors disappointed, and the publicity about the profitability of money broking.

When dealings in the shares begin next Wednesday, they are expected to go to a quick premium on the offer price of 140p, with some talk yesterday of them opening at over 200p. Financial Editor, page 17

Stock Markets

FT Index 5182 up 10.0
FT 100s 63.26 up 0.50
FT All-Share 308.52 up 3.04
Bargains 21,084

Sterling

\$1.8950 up 1.60 cents
£100 \$8.4 up 0.2

Dollar

Index 106.7 down 0.3
DM 2.2137 down 8 pts

Gold

\$410.50 down \$2.25

Money

3 mth sterling 15.4-15
3 mth Euro \$134.13
6 mth Euro \$134.13

PRICE CHANGES

Rises
Anglo Am Corp 12p to 31.5p
De La Rue 25p to 55.5p
Empley Bros 8p to 72p
GEC 10p to 75.7p
Hammerston 'A' 10p to 84.0p
Hill Samuel 10p to 15.0p
Inchcape 27p to 28.0p
Lloyds Securities 10p to 32.0p
M & G Group 17p to 30.5p
Mercury Secs 15p to 25.0p
Polly Peck 12p to 35.0p
Sainsbury 12p to 36.5p
Standard Tel 12p to 44.5p
Unilever 10p to 64.5p
Vairor 10p to 55p

Falls
Anglo Am Corp 12p to 31.5p
British Nitro 9p to 12.1p
Elisburg Gold 6p to 14.5p
Grosvonts 10p to 43.0p
Hampden Gold 10p to 13.0p
Husky Oil 22p to 60.0p
Kinross 10p to 64.0p
Kwik Fit 10p to 48.0p
Lindell 10p to 15.0p
Marlboro 6p to 14.5p
SA Breweries 10p to 19.5p
SA Land 17p to 21.5p
Tate & Lyle 10p to 24.0p
Western Mining 10p to 24.0p
Wand Cos 10p to 11.5p

Japan plans tariff cuts

Japan is expected to announce new measures at the end of this month to reduce friction with the EEC over its trade surplus.

They are likely to include an emergency programme of exports, a reduction in import tariffs and simplification of import procedures, and further liberalization of service industries.

Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Prime Minister, has asked a ministerial committee to draw up a package of measures.

Printing dispute costs contract

East Midland Allied Press has lost an important contract because of industrial action which has halted all printing at the works at Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

A spokesman said that Newman Turner Publications of Ely, Cambs, Surrey, was moving the printing of the magazine Here's Health elsewhere because of delays in publication. Some 200 members of the National Graphical Association are in dispute over negotiating rights.

Hume side oil

BP has discovered oil in the village of Howtham, near Brigg, in South Humberside. Although it is expected to be only a small well, it is thought to be worth developing.

Union merger

The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and the National Union of Blastfurnacemen have begun talks which are expected to lead to a merger of the two unions, the Journal Metal Bulletin reports.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Time for sterling to join the EMS, Jenkins says

Mr Roy Jenkins said yesterday that Britain should delay no longer in joining the European Monetary System, which links the various EEC currencies (Frances Williams writes). He urged the Government to announce its intention to join by the end of the month, when the European Council of Ministers meets in London.

Mr Jenkins, a former President of the European Commission and joint leader of the Social Democratic Party, attacked successive governments for their "semi-detachment" from Europe, and committed a future Social Demo-

cratic-Liberal administration to the EMS. He was speaking at a conference in London organized by the British section of the European League for Economic Cooperation.

His remarks come at a time of intense debate within the Government on the merits of joining the European currency mechanism. Whether the Chancellor or the Prime Minister are convinced that the time is right and there is no prospect of a decision being made until early next year, perhaps at Budget time.

Full report, page 16

Sweden to get £150m loan

The National Westminster bank said it has been asked to raise £150m for the Swedish Government by a 10 year euro-credit.

The loan will carry interest of 1 per cent over London Interbank offered rates, for the first five years, rising to 1 per cent. The terms are similar to those on the \$800m (£414m) credit Sweden signed in April.

TODAY

Retail prices index; tax and prices index; building societies' monthly figures. Companies reporting their results today include Stothert and Pitt (final); John Beales, De Vere Hotels and F. H. Lloyd (half-yearly).

Shrinking pound in your pocket

The purchasing power of the pound is now less than a fifth of what it was 17 years ago, according to a new survey by Mr Jack Bruce-Gardyne, for the Treasury, gave the following real values for the pound in September each year, using 1964 as a base.

1964	100p
1965	92p
1966	82p
1967	71p
1968	62p
1969	52p
1970	42p
1971	32p
1972	22p
1973	12p
1974	10p
1975	8p
1976	6p
1977	4p
1978	3p
1979	2p
1980	1p
1981	1p

Opening for exporters

Egypt should remain a good market for British exporters in the next few years, Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, said on his return yesterday from five days of talks in Cairo.

Exporters could expect changes in Egypt under its new leadership, with greater emphasis being placed on investment in infrastructure and agricultural development. Egypt is Britain's second biggest market in the Arab world.

Good pointers for British interests, Mr Biffen said, were Egypt's new willingness to allow repatriation of profits and accept more partnerships involving foreign capital.

Mobil in new takeover deal

Mobil Oil is negotiating an agreement with the Federal Trade Commission that would leave Marathon Oil intact and separate if the commission disapproves Mobil's proposed merger with Marathon.

Mobil proposes to acquire Marathon for £5,100m, but Marathon officials urged stockholders to reject the offer and have sought a court injunction to limit the takeover bid.

French foreign exchange regulations are being relaxed from today to allow the purchase of foreign currency on a forward basis for financing imports of various commodities.

Royal Dutch Shell is to rationalize its refining and petrochemical operations in The Netherlands, involving the possible closure of some factories and the loss of about 900 jobs.

Rolls strike goes on

Strikers at the Rolls-Royce aero engine plant at Hillingdon, Glasgow, voted narrowly yesterday to continue their unofficial strike now in its fourth week. At a stormy meeting 570 votes to continue the dispute and 610 to return to work.

The factory employs 6,000 people and 2,500 workers have been laid off because of the dispute over revised work times. Mr Don McClean, Rolls-Royce Scottish Director, has said that the long-term future of the plant is being jeopardized.

£13m loan for Nigerian state

The Export Credits Guarantee Department is guaranteeing a £13m loan with Williams and Glyn's Bank acting on its own behalf and for Charterhouse Japhet's has made available to the Anambra State Government in Nigeria. The loan will help finance a £15m contract awarded to Elco Power Plant of Bradford for the supply of United Kingdom-manufactured equipment.

Camera group owes £1.6m

Debts of £1,616,448 were revealed at a creditors' meeting in London yesterday of Rollei (UK), the Wellingborough-based distributors of German-made cameras.

Assets totalled only £541,194, Mr Peter Phillips, who was appointed liquidator, said. The biggest creditor is the German parent, Rollei Werke, Franke and Heidecke which is owed £1,507,229.

Martonair

Salient points from the statement circulated by Mr. Ronald Cartwright:

* In common with the majority of U.K.-based engineering companies, we have experienced a difficult year in which a general reduction in world wide demand has been accompanied by a relatively high value of sterling. As a consequence, the profit for the year before taxation decreased to £4.07 million as compared with £6.1 million in the previous year. We estimate that profits would have been approximately £900,000 higher if exchange rates had remained at the same level as in the previous year.

* A final Ordinary dividend of 8.55p per share is proposed, making a total Ordinary dividend of 7.6p per share for the year, maintaining the same dividend as last year.

* Group turnover was down from £39.1 million to £36.4 million of which 75% was in respect of direct exports from the U.K. and sales by overseas subsidiaries. In the U.K. there has clearly been a substantial reduction this year in the size of the overall market for pneumatic control equipment. Many of our customers have been seriously affected by high interest charges and adverse exchange rates and our turnover decreased from £10.1 million to £9.1 million.

* The more realistic alignment of sterling in recent months against the European currencies is proving beneficial and this factor, coupled with our strong balance sheet and the wide spread of our business, gives us good grounds for anticipating a return to satisfactory growth pattern as soon as there is a significant resumption of demand.

MARTONAIR INTERNATIONAL

p.l.c.

Manufacturers of pneumatic control equipment

Steelmen seek cheaper fuel

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Britain's steelmakers yesterday urged the Government to bring in new measures to cut the industry's £500m a year fuel bill.

Although prices for most fuels have moved more closely into line with those paid by the industry's European competitors, there are still big differences in prices paid by steelmakers for electricity and fuel oil.

The British Steel Corporation and members of the British Independent Steel Producers' Association claim that present energy price disadvantages being faced by the industry in the United Kingdom amount to about £50m.

The corporation spends about £400m a year on electricity, gas and oil and a further £400m on coking coal, while the private sector companies spend about £100m a year, mainly on

electricity for electric arc steelmaking furnaces. The energy task force of the National Economic Development Council estimated in its report this week that the steel industry was paying up to 30 per cent more for its power compared with French steelmakers and up to 25 per cent more than German companies.

Through an intensive energy conservation programme, the BSC expects to achieve savings of about £60m

this year on its fuel bill with further savings of about £30m likely next year.

The Iron and Steel Sector Working Party of the National Economic Development Council yesterday called on the Electricity Council to reconsider its thinking towards big industrial customers and warned that the present pricing structure could threaten the future of steel-making companies.

In a shopping list drawn up by the working party, the industry called for the abolition or substantial reduction of the present 28 a tonne fuel oil tax, and said that the British Gas Corporation should base its prices to large customers on heavy fuel oil prices at present British Gas has also been urged to introduce other changes aimed at reducing overall tariff levels to the steel industry.

On electricity, which was the area highlighted by the NEDC task force, the steel industry working party said that the Electricity Council and area boards should introduce a positive tariff incentive to steel works to improve their load factors by means of larger discounts for bulk consumption.

£7m boost for ICL services

The ICL computer company yesterday announced a £7m re-equipment programme for its bureau operations in Britain, Australia and South Africa. The intention is to take advantage of an expected upsurge in on-line services, which allow businesses to have terminals in their offices attached to the substantial power of a large computer in a central bureau.

About £4m will be invested in ICL's three Baric bureau operations in Britain, owned jointly with Barclays Bank. Each operation will establish its own national network and provide access to specialised services for ICL bureaux abroad.

The Baric bureaux, which have 3,000 customers, expect on-line services to catch up within three years with the more traditional batch system, where files and tapes are processed at the bureau, away from the user's office.

Brandy and Coke

Coca-Cola is negotiating the purchase of the Osborne company, which produces about 35 per cent of Spanish brandy, according to sources in Madrid. Earlier the Spanish Coca-Cola company had completed acquisition of Pedro Domenech, an Osborne rival, but this project was abandoned.

Irish exports cheer

Irish exports will rise by 3 per cent in 1981 and will continue upwards next year, according to the Irish Export Board in Dublin. Agricultural exports would fall by 5 per cent but foreign sales of manufactured goods would increase by 8 per cent.

OECD price rise

Consumer prices in the 24 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development member countries rose 2.1 per cent in September after a 0.6 per cent rise in August, bringing the year-on-year increase to 10.8 per cent, the OECD said in Paris.

Coal equipment deal

A contract worth DM23m (\$29,000) has been awarded to Krupp Industrie- und Stahlbau by Skodaexport of Czechoslovakia, to deliver soft coal processing and feeding equipment for an electric generating plant in Turkey.

Libyan contract

The electronics division of Standard Telephone and Cables (STC) based in Newport, Gwent, has won a contract worth £500,000 for the supply of telecommunications equipment to Libya.

Pay rise 'clawback'

The American Motors Corporation has suggested to its 14,000 employees that they invest 10 per cent of their pay rises for the coming two years in the company's development programme.

Pressing home British interests in N. Sea

Over the past seven years the Department of Energy's Offshore Supplies Office (OSO) has been waging a quiet but remarkably effective campaign to make sure that British industry gets as much business as possible from the development of North Sea oil and gas. For example, it deserves but will not publicly accept — a lot of credit for yesterday's announcement that the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) is placing an £80m order with Scott Lithgow.

Technology

Delicate footwork has been necessary to put the maximum pressure on the oil companies to buy British without contravening the Treaty of Rome and Britain's other international obligations to free trade. OSO staff also say privately that their efforts are sometimes hampered by the extraordinary reluctance of some British firms to seize the opportunities held out to them, while foreign competitors with more entrepreneurial spirit do not hesitate.

Nevertheless, British companies now provide about 70 per cent of offshore equipment and services for the North Sea — a £2,500m a year market ranging from geological consultancy to oil rigs. In 1973, when the OSO was set up, the equivalent proportion was below 30 per cent.

Mr John d'Ancona, the energetic under-secretary who became director-general of the Glasgow-based OSO last July, believes that the office has accomplished the first phase of its mission — to establish the credibility of British firms as offshore suppliers, by influencing the companies' procurement decisions (though there are still some exceptions, like undersea pipe-laying, where British industry is not involved).

"Now we're ready to start work," he said, "the more important second phase," he said. That is to work with the oil companies to strengthen the technological base of the British offshore industry, so that it will be able to compete throughout the world for contracts a decade or two into the future, after development of the North Sea and the British continental shelf has run down.

"We were conscious from the beginning that the real problem was that the core technology belongs mainly to the United States and to American companies," Mr d'Ancona said.

If the industries that have grown up depending on (the British continental shelf) as a market are to survive into the twenty-first century, they are going to have to draw on the world offshore scene, and to do that they are going to have to match their American competitors' technology," he went on. "That is not going to be easy."

The Offshore Supplies Office deserves much of the credit for ensuring that this £80m semi-submersible drilling rig for BNOC will be built in Britain — at Scott Lithgow's Clydebank yard.

Oil companies may feel the new emphasis on technology during the next eighth or next-but-one round of offshore oil licensing. Mr d'Ancona is pushing the Department of Energy to change the system to take account of companies' research and development intentions. Licensees would then be required to help their suppliers to build up technological capabilities in the United Kingdom, and the department would monitor their R & D performance as well as their procurement record.

The OSO's engineering branch acts as an intermediary between offshore operators and potential suppliers, ensuring that United Kingdom firms get a fair chance to bid for all contracts and that orders go abroad only if the British bids are clearly uncompetitive.

"Only yesterday I had a case cross my desk in which a bid from Japan for some bits and pieces of equipment came out at £3.5m, and the best United Kingdom bid was £14m," Mr d'Ancona said.

"That was that. There was no way of closing the gap."

When the margin is closer, the OSO is often involved in detailed negotiations with the ordering company, concentrating on the most favourable aspects of the British bid. If the company insists that the foreign bid is clearly superior and accepts it, the Government cannot overrule it. But it knows that if the office finds the decision unreasonable, the Energy Department may give it a black mark which could affect its future as a North Sea operator.

With the new emphasis on technology, the OSO will work particularly hard to ensure that offshore projects with an important R & D component come to Britain. For example, Conoco's decision last summer to give several British companies an important role in the development of its Tension Leg Platform for the Hutton Field is the sort of deal that is welcome.

United Kingdom subsidiaries of American companies count as British in the OSO's eyes if their parent allows them to build up their own technological expertise, which they can use to bid independently for export orders. Several Houston-based giants, including Brown & Root, Gray Tool and Hughes Tool, do give their British offshoots the necessary independence, but others treat their operations in this country merely as branch plants for assembly and production, keeping the "know-how" in the United States. "Those chaps are not terribly welcome," Mr d'Ancona says.

The offshore supplies office also develops British offshore technology directly through its own R & D branch, which spends about £4m a year in collaborative research projects with industry. Much of the activity is directed toward new techniques that will be needed to produce oil and gas under far deeper water than the few hundred feet of the present North Sea fields.

Yesterday, for example, the OSO started a new series of trials of unmanned robot submarines in the Loch Linnhe. These remotely operated vehicles should eventually take the place of human divers for maintaining undersea oil production systems.

Clive Cookson

BSC aid gets conditional go-ahead

From Peter Norman, Brussels, Nov 12

The European Commission today gave the British Government the go-ahead to pay a final £360m pound tranche of aid to the British Steel Corporation in its present financial year. The new aid payment is subject to conditions. These are:

- Whitehall must ensure that BSC's crude steel production does not exceed 13.9 million tonnes in 1981/2.
- It must submit BSC's next three year plan for joint examination before London can take a decision about it.
- The Commission will also investigate the British Government's policy towards

BSC over the next three years.

The funds, which are part of a total of £730m pounds being paid to BSC in the accounting year to the end of next March, were held up by the Commission in July pending a thorough examination of the BSC's restructuring plan.

The Commission said it was allowing payment because of the major efforts undertaken by BSC to restructure and assure its future viability.

The Brussels authorities have been particularly impressed that BSC has reduced its finished production capacity by 1.4 million tonnes and carried through its plans

for workforce reductions and plant closures.

The conditions are expected to raise the difficult problems of BSC's mothballed capacity. Mr Frans Andriessen, the commissioner responsible for competition policy, is known to be concerned that more than five million tonnes of productive capacity could be lying in reserve because of short-term working or mothballing.

The fear in Brussels is that this capacity could be brought back into use, creating an oversupply, a new slump in prices and new huge losses for the industry throughout Europe.

Time to join EMS, Jenkins says

By Frances Williams

Mr Roy Jenkins yesterday urged the Government to delay no longer in taking Britain into the currency mechanism of the European Monetary System. The time was now right on both economic and political grounds, he said.

He committed a future Socialist Democratic/Liberal government firmly to the EMS and to Europe.

Mr Jenkins, a former president of the European Commission in Brussels and an ardent proponent of closer monetary integration, said the EMS had been a substantial achievement in its 2½ year history proving an island of exchange rate stability in a volatile world.

Mr Jenkins, who was speaking at a conference organised by the British section of the European League for Economic Cooperation, was scathing about what he called "the endemic British error of semi-detachment from Europe."

Mr James Callaghan, Prime Minister, had declined to join the EMS because he feared it would hurt unemployment by keeping the pound's rate too high. Mrs Thatcher had declined because she feared it would hurt the fight against inflation by keeping the rate too low.



Backing the EMS: Mr Roy Jenkins (left) with Lord Lever yesterday

"Since then," Mr Jenkins said, "we have had a worse combination of unemployment and inflation than almost any of the eight fully participating countries and have suffered more than any of them from the disadvantages of a sharply fluctuating exchange rate."

Mr Jenkins told an enthusiastically pro-EMS audience of European politicians and businessmen that Britain should announce its adhesion to the EMS "no later than this month's London meeting of the European Council of Ministers."

This would be warmly welcomed by the other members, including the French, he said. The key Deutsche mark/sterling rate looked about

right. Entry would benefit industry. And it would be a useful political gesture, while Britain still held the presidency of the Council of Ministers.

Earlier the conference was told by Lord Lever, a former Labour Cabinet minister with responsibilities for international money policy, that the EMS was the key to economic prosperity in Europe.

He said Britain's failure to join the joint float mechanism represented a continuing repudiation of the country's responsibility as an EEC member. Until it did so, the United Kingdom would carry little political weight.

Lord Lever said that the Chancellor could not achieve

his inflation objectives in a world of currency instability. A serious pledge to guarantee the value of the currency.

M Frederic Boyer de la Giroday, director of monetary affairs at the European Commission, said British arguments against joining did not hold water.

This comment was echoed by M Jacques van Ypersele, former chairman of the EEC's Monetary Committee and one of the authors of the EMS. He claimed that the EMS had worked well, protecting more than 50 per cent of the trade of member countries from currency instability.

He argued that the petrodollar problem could be dealt with by giving the pound a wider margin of fluctuation around its central rate, analogous to the 6 per cent margins which apply to the lira. Other currencies have a 2½ per cent margin of fluctuation.

M Ypersele called for moves towards setting up the European Monetary Fund, originally envisaged as the second stage of monetary integration after the EMS. This would pave the way for a bigger role to be given to the European Currency Unit and for coordinated intervention on foreign exchange markets against the dollar and other currencies.

SKF

Interim statement

SKF Group sales for the first nine months of 1981 were 6% up on the corresponding 1980 period and amounted to 9,921 million Swedish kronor. Income before exchange differences was 651 million kronor (757).

Rolling bearing sales rose 8%, profits rising by 70 million kronor, 11%. Steel division losses continued to mount due to market saturation and over-capacity. The profit situation for cutting tool operations was positive despite lower sales; while the profit margin for other diversified products was just about halved due to receding markets for textile machinery components and foundry products.

Profit improvements in the final quarter are expected to confirm the earlier forecast of a moderate income drop for 1981 as a whole.

Comparison tables including the financial year 1980:

Mkr—million Swedish kronor	Jan 1st to Sept 30th 1981				Jan 1st to Dec 31st 1980			
	Mkr	%	Mkr	%	Mkr	%	Mkr	%
Net sales	9,921	100.0	9,339	100.0	12,512	100.0		
Other operating income	89		92		148			
Operating revenue	10,010		9,431		12,660			
Cost of goods sold	6,760	68.1	6,268	67.1	8,357	66.8		
Selling, administrative and technical development expenses	1,910	19.3	1,744	18.7	2,456	19.6		
Operating income before depreciation	1,340	13.5	1,419	15.2	1,847	14.8		
Scheduled depreciation	352	3.5	332	3.6	454	3.6		
Operating income after depreciation	988	10.0	1,087	11.6	1,393	11.1		
Financial income and expenses—net	-337	3.4	-330	3.5	-440	3.5		
Income before exchange differences	651	6.6	757	8.1	953	7.6		
Earnings per Parent Company share, Skr	15.60		18.50		23.15			
Capital expenditure, Mkr	339		309		492			
Average number of employees	50,274		52,952		53,026			
Group sales by product field ²	Mkr	%	Mkr	%	Mkr	%		
Rolling bearings	7,415	70.1	6,870	68.0	9,090	67.7		
Steel	1,545	14.6	1,635	16.2	2,200	16.4		
Cutting tools	595	5.7	410	4.1	550	4.1		
Other products	1,250	11.6	1,180	11.7	1,590	11.8		
Total	10,585	100.0	10,095	100.0	13,430	100.0		

¹ Calculated on number of Parent Company shares after 1981 rights issue.

² Sales figures include internal deliveries between the product fields.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Green light on interest rates

How rapidly the mood of financial markets can change. Less than a month ago it was all gloom as markets focused their attention on the collapsing credibility of the Reagan budget strategy. Now the markets have shifted their attention to the deepening United States recession and the idea that the Fed, either of its own accord or under pressure from the administration, will allow interest rates to ease off further to prevent serious undershoot on the narrower monetary aggregates.

Just how far this downward process will be allowed to go remains to be tested, just as it remains to be seen how long rates will stay down. Certainly the time will eventually come when markets will once again start to ask just how the Fed's deficit and economic recovery are to be accommodated within a disinflationary monetary framework.

Meanwhile, the easier trend in United States rates allowed the Eurobond market to continue its rally yesterday and the new-found health of the market was soon borne out by the blockbuster \$400m seven year issue from Du Pont, the biggest industrial bond issue ever on the Eurobond market, and one of the largest deals this year.

For the moment, though, there seems to be the promise of Christmas coming early this year. Treasury bill rate will be sharply lower again at today's weekly tender, and it will not need money market rates to fall a great deal further for borrowers to look forward to a further cut in base rates.

The sheer volume of applications indicates that the Exco new issue is going to be a star's delight. The rush for shares yesterday virtually assures a handsome premium when dealings begin next Wednesday — 60-80p over the 140p issue price is already being talked about unless the miners threaten to shut down British industry. A key factor in the development of the after market in the shares, however, will be the scale of institutional involvement, and there are already some signs that the level of institutional interest has not been what would normally be expected in a new issue. For one thing there are simply not enough shares being made available to make the whole exercise worthwhile for some, while other fund managers have remarked that in a lottery like this it does not make sense to tie up money for a week when there is precious little chance of success in any case.

So there could be some two-way business on the day dealings start as the stars rush to take their profits. Whether institutions will now decide that with three quoted money brokers it is sensible to build up a sector exposure remains to be seen, although it is worth pointing out that Mercantile House has not built up as big an institutional profile as for shares generally with around 35 per cent of the equity (excluding Britannia Arrow's 12 per cent stake) in big hands, and despite the lush profits money brokers have made over the last three years there is still some residual suspicion of this volatile business. A strong opening price could also tempt some of the employee shareholders to take their profits (excluding the directors who have agreed to hold on for at least a year) and with them getting preferential treatment, selling from this source could be a substantial steady tap.

Ultramar Not quite perfect

Ultramar is almost the perfect oil share. Nearly all the income is in strong dollars. It is in the happy position of buying most of its crude and making money from refining, which is the right way round while crude remains plentiful and price influenced by the Saudis; it will soon get half its money from Indonesia, increasingly viewed as politically stable, and from where the consortium of which Ultramar is a member sends liquid

natural gas to Japan, one of the world's strongest and fastest growing economies. It also plans to double gas capacity in the next two years. Finally, Ultramar yesterday produced reasonable figures for the nine months to September, seeing that they took in a seasonally quiet third quarter.

However, it is not quite the perfect oil share. The price eased up to 500p yesterday and it is 36p down on the level after the strong first result. The trouble could be that too much of the good news is already known while the whole oil sector labours under the knowledge that the Government is officially bent on raising £800m or more from selling ENOC and its British Gas oil holdings.

Pretax profits in the nine months almost stood still in dollar terms. But in sterling terms pretax profits rose from £94m to £141.7m. A once for all rise in the Canadian tax rate left net profits at £68.3m, but an operational cash flow of £113.2m looks good against a market capitalization of £540m.

If all goes well, this year's net profits could go up from £74m to more than £90m, consolidated in 1982, and race ahead in 1983 and 1984. But adverse currency moves could still remove the gloss, and the group will soon be spending more on capital account than cash flow. It will need a profits explosion to put that right.

In some respects the decision by Argyll Foods to take a small loss on its investment in Linford rather than endure a Monopolies Commission investigation is hardly surprising. Argyll is capitalized at only £42m and it would have had to wait six to nine months before getting a decision while having over £20m tied up in Linford shares.

Even so, it is hard to have much sympathy with Argyll. The decision to refer the bid may come late in the day but anyone who took the trouble to read the Monopolies Commission report issued in May on discounts retailers must have known that a referral was highly likely. "We consider that it is important to keep a particularly close watch on future mergers in the distributive trades," the Commission said and went on to talk of the need for closer scrutiny of any mergers which might reduce competition in retailing on a national or even regional level.

Seen in this light, Argyll's protestations of surprise at the referral seem rather unconvincing. Equally, given the high claims Argyll has been making for this merger and the great benefits it would have, it would surely have been worth its while persuading the Commission of the merits of its case.

British & Commonwealth Plain sailing

Shares in British & Commonwealth Shipping are not going to set any portfolios alight. Certainly the company has suffered the problem of the recession, but is now managing to stage something of a recovery from a difficult period in 1980 and the shares will be unlikely to cause the sort of worries that have afflicted those of other shipping groups.

For the first six months of 1981, operating profit increased by £2.4m to £9.4m. The contribution from the shipping side rose from £607,000 to £2.1m, but this is unlikely to be repeated given current trading conditions. Air transport put on an extra £1m for a contribution of £2.5m and profits from aviation support services increased from £1.6m to £2.2m, although the other activities like office equipment did not fare as well. Trading profits ran out at £7.6m and were boosted by £1.9m on sale of ships.

The interest payable is down a little at £5.6m and the share of profits from associates comes out at £3.5m against £6.5m. After lower interest charges and reduced associate profits pretax figure for the first half of £13.1m compares Ultramar is a member sends liquid

Between now and the end of the century the fastest growing new energy source is likely to be oil from shale, tar sands, and coal. Confusingly called synthetics by the oil industry, these often remote and always expensive sources could supply 9 million barrels of oil a day — roughly Saudi Arabia's present production — or about 4 per cent of estimated energy needs around the year 2000.

To call synthetics the fastest growing marginal energy supply is a little deceptive because oil production from coal, shale and tar sands is minute at the moment. But as oil prices have risen fifteen-fold in the 1970s and are expected to continue rising at least in line with inflation, and as conventional oil reserves are running out even though they are still considerable, oil and mining companies, as well as governments, have shown increasing interest in synthetics.

The principles of synthetics have been known for years. Almost any hydrocarbon — or material containing hydrocarbons — can be changed into oil. The Germans made oil from coal during the last war, and the Lurgi process they employed has been developed into a substantial industry by the South Africans, although it is widely believed, in the oil industry

that the Republic's Sasol plants are more strategic than commercial operations. Oil from shale has similarly been a possibility at least since the First World War, if not before. Part of the Piceance Basin, the huge shale reserve which cuts through the Rocky Mountains in America, was designated a naval oil reserve over 60 years ago. Interest in the tar sands of Athabasca in northern Alberta, Canada, dates back to when the first European traders and trappers saw local Indians, smelting their canoes with the tar that oozed from the banks of the North Saskatchewan River.

While cheap conventional oil was readily available, however, from the United States and later the Middle East, such sources seemed uneconomic. Not only that, they also posed formidable technical problems. Attempts to make oil from shale and tar sands, for instance, were frequently defeated as much by the inherent difficulties of extracting the hydrocarbons as the cost.

What has changed is not the approach but the understanding of hydrocarbons, the engineering of huge plants, and the management and organizational skill demanded by these huge projects. At the Syncrude Athabasca project, one of the

world's few producers of oil from tar sands, is designed to move 45 million tonnes of overburden and 92 million tonnes of tar sand each year. The processing plant, in which Imperial Oil, the Canadian arm of Exxon, is the biggest shareholder, at present delivers about 129,000 barrels of oil a day.

Imperial Oil and its partners have so far sunk more than \$2,300m (£1,022m) into Syncrude. But the projects now under consideration around the world, in both shale and tar sands, will in all probability cost twice as much — give or take the odd billion.

The Canadian tar sands, of which Athabasca is part, are one of the richest and biggest such reserves. They amount to an estimated 852,000 million barrels of oil, with another 100,000 million barrels lying at depths of up to 1,000 feet. How much of this huge reserve can be recovered is another question. Mining is concentrated at present on those deposits nearest the surface, where bitumen saturation of the host material averages 10 per cent.

Tar sands of similar quality are to be found in the Soviet Union, Venezuela and Madagascar. Poorer reserves have been located on every continent. In every case, however, the approach is the same. The hydrocarbon-bearing material, a mixture of tar and

sand or other rock which has the consistency of grainy putty, has to be separated so that the tar can be processed, usually by the addition of hydrogen, into a less viscous, upgraded oil capable of being transported by pipeline.

The magnitude of the operation necessary to exploit oil shale is no less daunting. Exxon's Colony shale mine in Colorado will move 66,000 tonnes of rock a day from the heart of a mountain 7,000 feet up in the Rockies to produce 47,000 barrels a day of oil. The Rundle project in Queensland, Australia, which is half owned by Exxon, will be even bigger if the present studies come to fruition.

Shale and tar sands are the first generation of synthetics. The half dozen projects on the drawing board in the United States, Canada and Australia will not come into production before the middle of the decade, and will not reach capacity for about 10 years. By that time, assuming oil prices are still favourable, oil from coal will have become practicable.

The difficulty with coal, ironically, is that it can be turned into either oil or gas. The choice will depend on several factors, among which the most important are the type of coal, the availability of transport, the energy balance in a particular region, and the

technology of the corporation or government concerned. Exxon, which has invested heavily in coal research and technology recently, is to build a coal gasification pilot plant near Rotterdam.

Methane is the most important product from gasification. But that only leads to a further complication. Methane can be turned into liquids such as methanol suitable for use as oil substitutes. Brazil, for instance, is becoming a major methanol manufacturer. So the product options from coal are much broader than just making oil. Since coal is abundant, however, and since many countries want to diversify their energy sources, it is likely that coal liquefaction plants will come into production in the 1990s.

Synthetics are therefore finally realizing their long recognized potential. But for all the many billions of dollars being invested, and for all the high-powered research and development, conventional oil will remain the biggest single energy source well into the next century.

Synthetics are necessary to meet projected energy demand, and for strategic reasons. But the cost, the availability of suitable shale, tar sand and coal reserves, and the long lead times still mean they are the fuel of the future.

Blacks who are making their way to the top in Zimbabwe's business world

'Government policy is clear, that companies must be seen to be making a sustained effort to promote blacks. Organizations which have shown reluctance to adjust to new conditions have been subject to unannounced and frequently embarrassing visits by Ministers'

The stinging attack earlier this week by Mr Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's prime minister, on white industrialists and businessmen who, he said, had exploited black employees must be set against advances made by blacks at senior levels of the business world.

In an address to a political rally in Gwelo, Mr Mugabe denounced employers who failed to recognize that their prosperity had been born of "the blood and sweat of their workers".

At the same time smartly-dressed black customers sat in the comfortable surroundings of a cocktail bar in Salisbury's top hotel. A British visitor who was last in Zimbabwe just before independence in April last year commented a few days ago:

"You never saw a black in here before apart from the waiters. What do these chaps do for a living?"

The answer is that the majority were members of a growing body of black executives who have emerged in the past year amid Zimbabwe's white-controlled business community.

It is arguable that blacks have made greater advances at the top than at any other level of the private sector. Under previous administrations, executive positions were almost exclusively held by whites, whereas at other levels, notably in the skilled trades, blacks had already made some advances.

Mr. Abner Botsh, who earlier this year became the first black president of the country's associated chambers of commerce, is among those who believe that much progress has been made. Some government ministers on this other hand are not satisfied and have alleged that many of the changes are cosmetic, particularly at boardroom level.

Government policy is clear — that companies must be seen to be making a sustained effort to promote blacks. Organizations which have shown reluctance to adjust to new conditions have been subject to unannounced

frequently embarrassing visits by ministers.

One of the difficulties in assessing precisely what progress has been made is a dearth of statistics. The Government embarked on a manpower survey earlier this year precisely to gain such information and to tailor training courses for future needs, but so far no details have been made public.

Mr Lawrence Vambe is one of the country's most experienced black businessmen, the owner of a business consultancy and a member of the boards of nine companies. His rise followed his appointment to a senior position in the public relations department at Anglo-American in 1972.

The period was the last years of the Central African Federation, comprising the Rhodesia and Nyasaland. With independence around the corner in Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) and Nyasaland (Malawi), the mining companies with cross-border interests had realized the need for adjustment.

His appointment still came as something of a shock to Mr Vambe. "That sort of thing just was not done then. All business outside the mining industry was holding to a line of keeping blacks out of positions of responsibility."

Nevertheless, he believes that more could have been done earlier when, in the wake of a comparatively liberal attitude to black recruitment, the federation's policies. With the break-up of the federation, opinions in Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) hardened

and with UDI the government started actively discouraging companies from advancing black employees.

Many of those who have since risen to senior positions agree that from the time of UDI opposition came more from government than from employers, a number of whom were keen to train and promote promising staff if for no other reason than that it made commercial sense at a time when increasing numbers of whites were leaving the country.

Mr Botsh, who is 45, says "that really is one of our main problems. So few blacks were permitted to rise that there was — and still is — a shortage of those with the necessary skills. When change came, the majority of companies were just not in a position to do anything."

Mr Botsh, the chairman of two companies, says that before independence any company which was training blacks for executive positions "was being pretty daring."

"There was no actual legislation barring black promotion but the government could be pretty discouraging."

Mr Botsh started his first business venture, a laundry company, in Salisbury in 1972. Energy and a sharp business sense quickly gained him respect in the business community and in 1976 he became probably the first black to be invited on to the board of a white-owned company — a hardware concern named Champions.

"I was apprehensive and so

were they — not only about the politics but the reaction of the white staff. But it worked out and, when the word got around, a few other companies did likewise."

He sees a similar pattern having an effect today. "There are companies which are realizing that their competitors have benefited from training blacks and so a new climate is created."

He is pleased with the achievements of the past year and mentions blacks who have been appointed chairmen of companies, directors, general managers and chief accountants.

Nothing ever happens fast enough in business. But I think that people must adapt to a certain extent that if they want to get to the lift they have to walk there themselves," he says.

Black aspirations have not been helped by the absence of any institutions business studies. Given previous constraints, it is hardly surprising that only a limited number of Africans have the qualifications or experience to equip them for a rapid rise.

Many of those who do have the relevant background and abilities have been snapped up by a government which is anxious to Africanize the Civil Service as quickly as possible. A growing number of ministries have black permanent secretaries, men who would obviously be equally able to rise to the top in business.

In discussions about which companies have made the most contribution some names recur — Turnall Hold-

ings, an industrial holding company for Turner and Newall; Lever Brothers, the British-owned food and toiletries company; Randall Holdings, another subsidiary of a British company; and Lomrho.

One local company stands out among all others and is cited by members of the government as a model — Nedlaw, a private investment company. The managing director is Mr Norman Walden, a white Zimbabwean, and the chief executive is Mr George Nyandoro, a veteran of nationalist politics.

"What they have done is unique in this country," Mr Vambe says. That includes training schemes, the appointment of worker directors, the creation of a workers' committee which attends management meetings and incentive and profit-sharing schemes.

Conversely, he says, there are still too many companies which are either making no attempt to adjust or which are shying away from translating words into action.

"It is short-sighted of these managements to try to keep blacks in the wings. Whether they like it or not they are going to be forced by political and economic circumstances to hasten their pace. The sensible thing to do would be in the meantime to develop training schemes so that those blacks who do rise do so on merit."

Even companies in which progress appears to have been made are not exempt from criticism. Morale is reported to be low among black executives at a major mining house, who feel that they have been taken on as window dressing, with impressive titles and good salaries but no solid responsibilities.

MW Botsh is dismissive of such complaints. "Any man worth his salt will use any opportunity he is given to show his ability. The moaning about cosmetic appointments comes often from people who are not doing enough to justify their advance," he says.

Stephen Taylor

Business Diary in Denmark: Toy Town Tale

Billund — About 50 kilometres east of the North Sea port of Esbjerg and off Jutland's main north-south, east-west net of trunk roads, this is a town easy to miss.

None the less, Billund is a Danish boom town, for it is in this unassuming place (population 2,500) tucked away amid the flat, windswept heaths of mid-Jutland that Lego — the manufacturer of Lego bricks-sets of interlocking plastic construction blocks or automatic binding bricks for children — has its headquarters.

When Lego was first set up in 1932, Billund was little more than a huddle of houses on the beach, unknown even to most Danes. Today Lego is the town's single biggest employer, having eight plants and Legoland, the children's amusement park built in Lego bricks.

Lego put Billund on the map literally building an airport there in 1961. Today Billund has the second biggest airport in Denmark, after Copenhagen International Airport, and is especially active in freight and charter operations.

Four flights a day link it with the Danish capital. Billund's central position in Jutland drawing traffic to and from a large catchment area.

Today the Christiansen family is still at the helm of Lego, a third generation presiding over an international operation and owning a family group concern which must be ranked among the fastest developing and most successful and efficient in recession ridden Denmark.

In 1980 Lego was able to increase its manpower by 150 at home and almost 400 overseas. Today it employs 2,500 in Denmark and 1,500 in over 20 foreign countries. The Lego group, which is made up of some 30 Danish and foreign companies, has infiltrated 130 markets worldwide. Since the 1950s, when the plastic interlocking bricks known by a world of children today were introduced.

The company proudly estimates that it today produces in half a day the equivalent of an entire year's production in the 1930s. It is even more proud — not without reason — that 98 per cent of its total output is sold outside Denmark, making Lego a big force in the international toy market and still doing well despite stagnation in the field and generally poor economic conditions. Danish exports like butter, bacon and cheese, Lego bricks are played with by more than 50 million youngsters (mostly boys between one and 14) worldwide for an average 30 minutes a day, Lego statistics claim.

Of total Lego production, 69 per cent goes to Western Europe and 18 per cent to the United States. West Germany remains the group's largest



Exploring the Lilliput park of Legoland in Billund.

States market. But the United States, which increased its purchases of Lego bricks by 22 per cent in 1980, is one of the most dynamic and promising markets.

Other important sales increases recorded in 1980 were in Italy, Spain, Canada and Australia, while Japan, along with Africa and Middle East markets, are showing a 50 per cent increase in sales.

In Singapore, a new sales company — Lego's seventh outside the home country — was opened last year. Over and above its sales companies, Lego has four factories abroad, two in Switzerland, one in West Germany, and one in the United States. Lego's main sellers are its

family — that since the first oil crisis in 1973, Lego has in fact never had a good year, registering an annual increase in turnover of at least 15 to 20 per cent, with profits doubling each year recently.

If these estimates are accurate, as all evidence suggests they are — the company has not commented on them — Lego must be ranked among the top 10 most profitable industrial operations in Denmark today. All is not success at Lego though.

Ironically enough Legoland — Lego's showcase 100,000 square metre amusement area in Billund, which was opened in 1968, and is Denmark's answer to Disneyland — runs at a deficit, due to high running costs (it is staffed by 300 in the summer season) and more recently, due to a slump in the number of Swedish holidaymakers visiting Denmark.

The park area abounds in a dizzy array of Lego reconstructions including Lilliput, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, dolls' houses, fairytale tableaux and even Legoland, Lego's own version of the Wild West, dominated by a huge 12-metre-high copy of the Leaning Tower of Pisa in South Dakota, with four American presidents formed out of 1.5 million Lego bricks.

Over 10 million tourists have nonetheless visited Legoland. Billund's toy town is a one town making one of Denmark's main tourist attractions on a par with Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens.

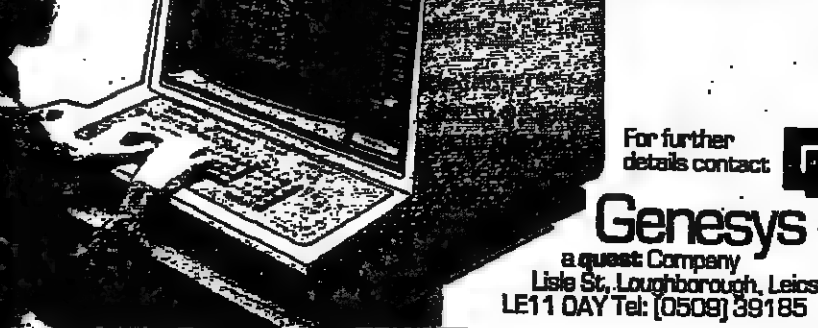
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The Board of Management of Akzo N.V. announces that on 11th November 1981 the results for the third quarter of 1981 were published.

Copies of this quarterly report may be obtained from the London Paying Agent:

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Securities Services Department
54, Lombard Street
London EC3P 3AH

AKZO Arnhem, 12th November 1981

Prime rate cut lifts shares

Mr Frank Rogers, chairman of ENAP

New group chief executive for Midland Bank

price of P & O D'fd 8p to 131p amid renewed bid talk in the wake of last week's rumours of a dawn raid from the Far East. Foods remained a dominant feature with Argyll announcing

profit by 30 per cent to £269,000. Turnover rose to £268.0m in the six months to October 2, up from £259m for the same period last year and an increased dividend, up 40 per cent at 12.13p gross, has been declared.

Mr Michael Monague, the

He said the company expected to announce an acquisition within the next week. The shares rose 5p to 133

Mr Maurice Phelps, who joined British Shipbuilders as director of personnel and industrial relations last year from a senior personnel post with Leyland Vehicles, has been appointed a full-time board member for a three-year term. His appointment increases the strength of the British Shipbuilders' board of full and part-time directors to 14.

Ungeles Bahru Rbr (F)	0.79 (0.95)
"Times" Vencer (I)	2.43 (2.55)
Utmanag (9 mths)	1.079 (657)
Valor (I)	26.93 (22.99)
Alfred Walker (F)	4.25 (2.81)
Winshaw Secs (F)	1.35 (1.12)
Whittington Eng (I)	0.52 (0.6)

Dividends in this table are shown net of income taxes on a gross basis. To establish net earnings are net. * = loss, † = ad.

2(3.3)	—(—)
0.12(0.21)	3.28(3.26)
0.04*(0.12*)	0.61*(0.37*)
141(94)	63.5(50.4)
0.69(0.52)	3.77(2.96)
0.24(0.12)	6(4.1)
0.019*(0.1*)	0.7*(5.9*)
0.012(0.024)	—(—)

of tax on pence per share. Elsewh
gross, multiply the net dividend
for scrip issue. —Australian

and operations for the nine months to 30th September 1981.

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Ultramar

The British Oil Company

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